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NO. 37.
NOV.

ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!

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Out OF THE FLAMES

IT CAME...

The VENGEFUL SPIRIT
OF A SAVAGE FROM
THE DARK DEPTHS OF THE
UNKNOWN! ---THRILL TO...

"MASQUERADE
OF DEATH!"

IT---IT'S COMING
OUT OF THE FIRE!
HELP!



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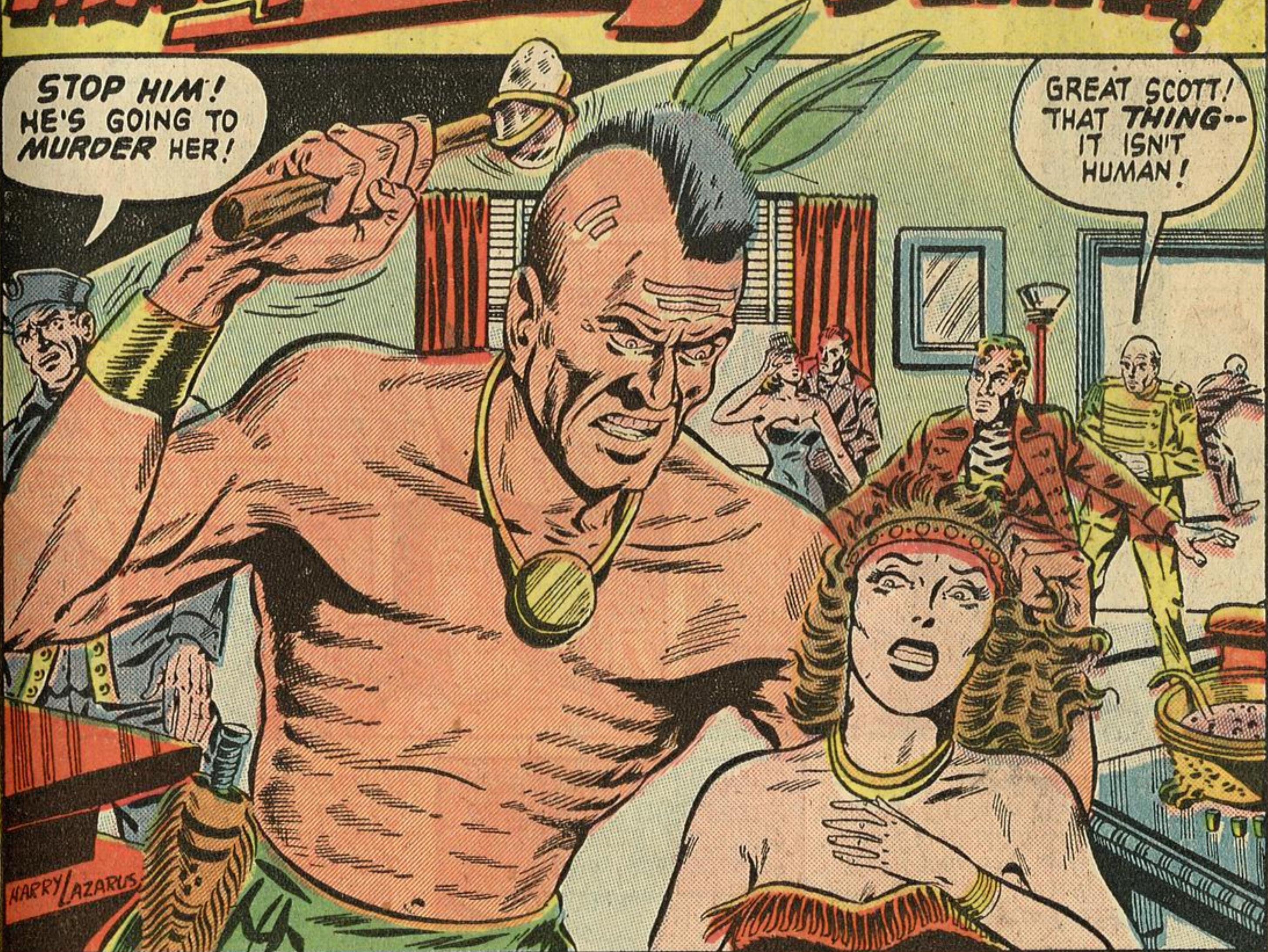
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IN AN ULTRA-MODERN PENTHOUSE, A GROUP OF MERRY REVELERS SUDDENLY TURNED HORROR-STRIKED BEFORE A GHASTLY INTRUDER! THERE, FROM OUT OF THE UNKNOWN, A FANTASTIC TERROR WAS STALKING AMONG THEM... THREATENING TO TURN THEIR INNOCENT COSTUME-PARTY INTO A...

MASQUERADE ^{OF} DEATH!



AT A MANHATTAN SMART-SET COSTUME PARTY--

WHAT A CLEVER IDEA FOR A COSTUME, PETE... THE OUTFIT OF YOUR DUTCH ANCESTOR-- PETER MINUIT!

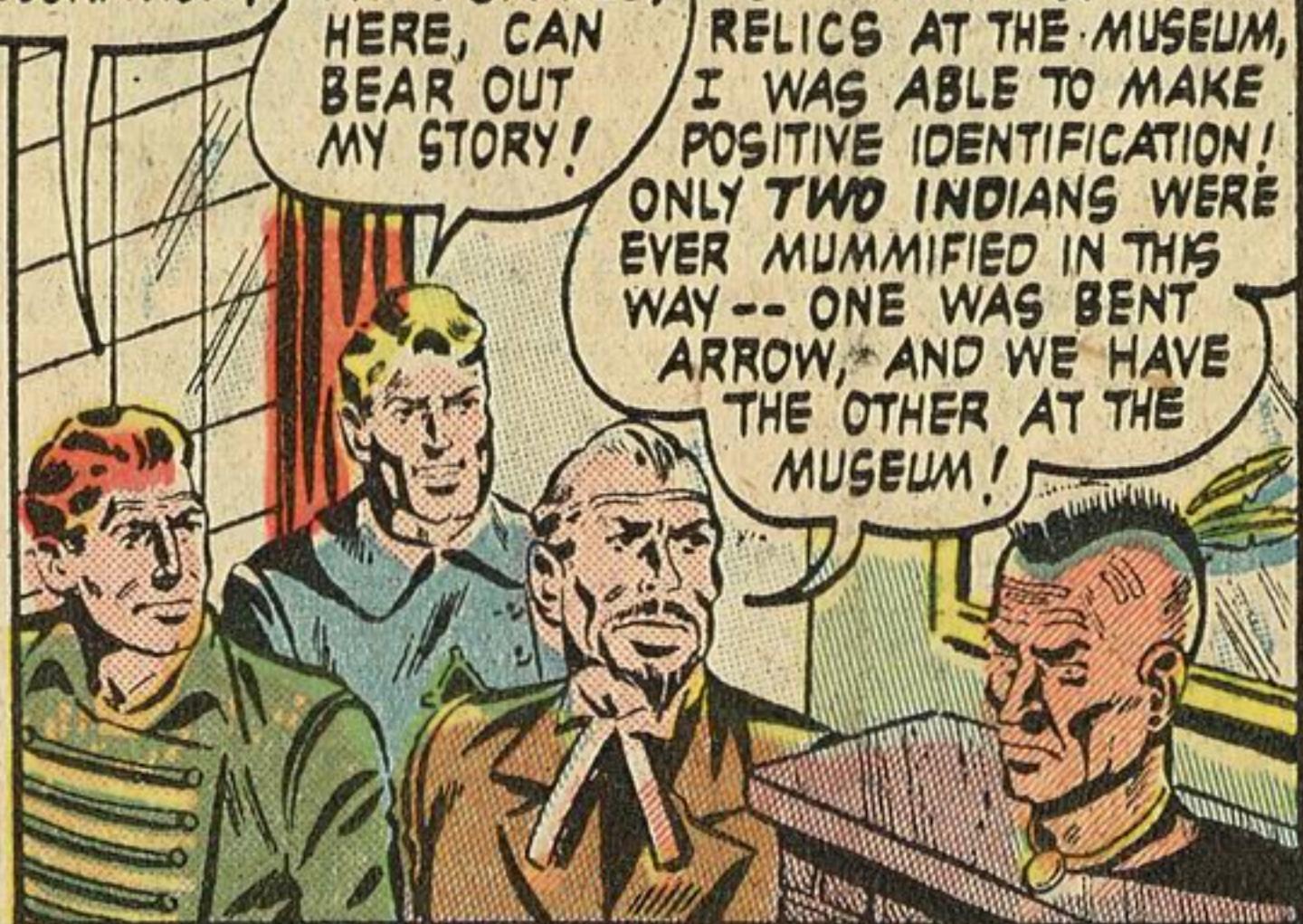
COME WITH ME-- I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT GAVE ME THE IDEA!

A MUMMIFIED HEAD OF AN INDIAN... WHAT A BIZARRE DECORATION!

AH, BUT THIS ISN'T JUST AN ORDINARY INDIAN-- THIS IS ACTUALLY THE HEAD OF BENT ARROW, THE YOUNG CHIEF WHO SOLD MANHATTAN ISLAND TO MY ANCESTOR!

PROF. GRAVES, AS CURATOR OF INDIAN RELICS AT THE MUSEUM, I WAS ABLE TO MAKE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION!

ONLY TWO INDIANS WERE EVER MUMMIFIED IN THIS WAY -- ONE WAS BENT ARROW, AND WE HAVE THE OTHER AT THE MUSEUM!



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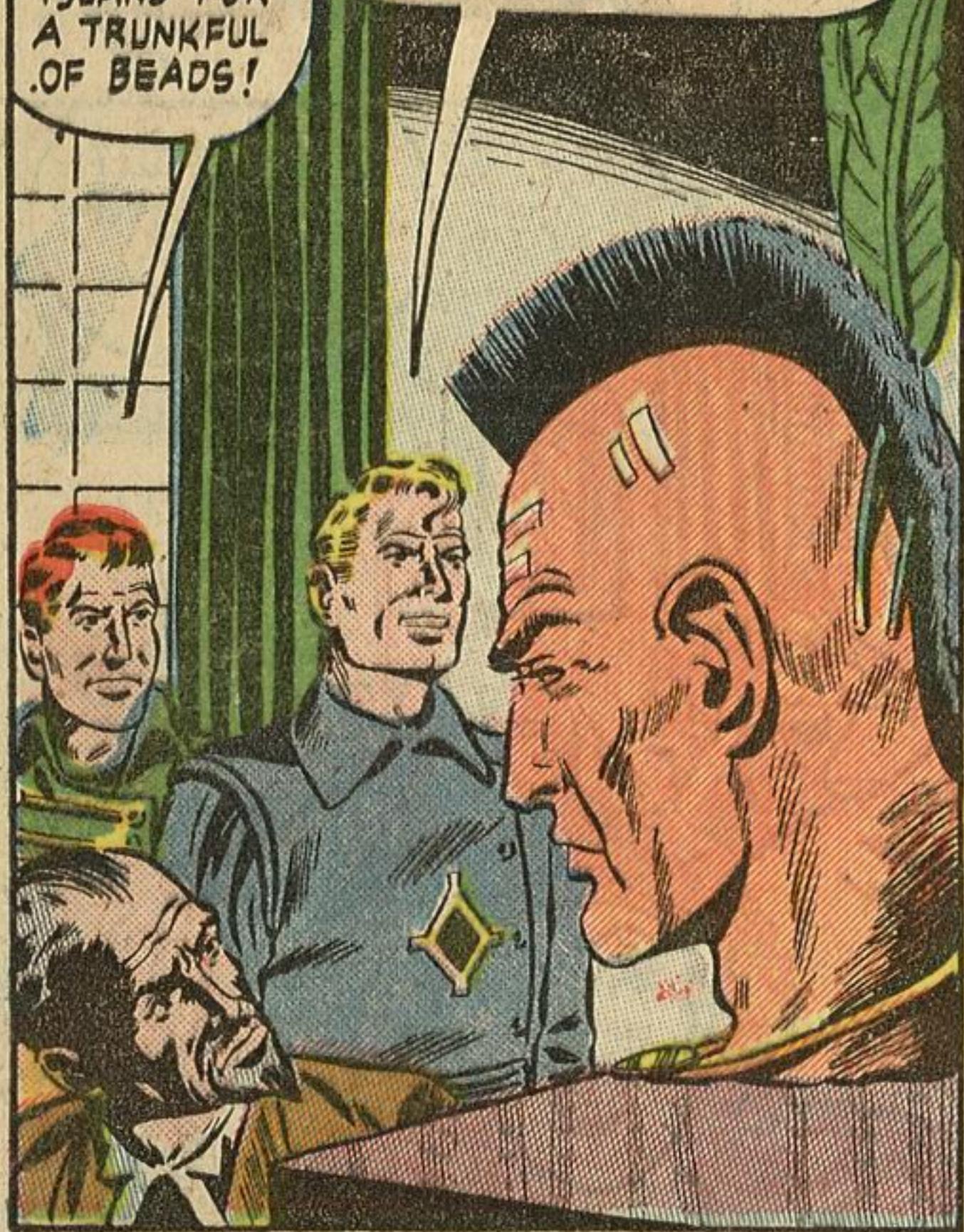
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HE CERTAINLY LOOKS FIERCE... BUT HE WASN'T MUCH OF A BUSINESS MAN! IMAGINE SELLING THIS WHOLE ISLAND FOR A TRUNKFUL OF BEADS!

ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, HIS TRIBE NEVER GAVE HIM PERMISSION TO SELL IT AT ALL! BUT BENT ARROW NEEDED WAMPUM, TO BUY HIMSELF THE INDIAN PRINCESS, PALE SHADOW! AND SO...

... AND SO HERE I AM, DRESSED AS PALE SHADOW, AS PETE SUGGESTED!

YOU LOOK TERRIFIC, SALLY! NO WONDER BENT ARROW LOST HIS HEAD!



BRRR! WHAT A SINISTER LOOKING FELLOW HE WAS! PALE SHADOW MAY HAVE LIKED HIM, BUT HE SURE DOESN'T APPEAL TO ME!

ACTUALLY, SHE DIDN'T LIKE HIM EITHER! BENT ARROW HAD A PRETTY EVIL REPUTATION! MAYBE I'VE BEEN STUDYING INDIAN LORE TOO LONG... BUT IT RATHER CHILLS MY SPINE THE WAY PETE DISMISSES THE REST OF THE LEGEND ABOUT HIM SO LIGHTLY!

COME ON, YOU TWO, LET'S JOIN THE FUN!

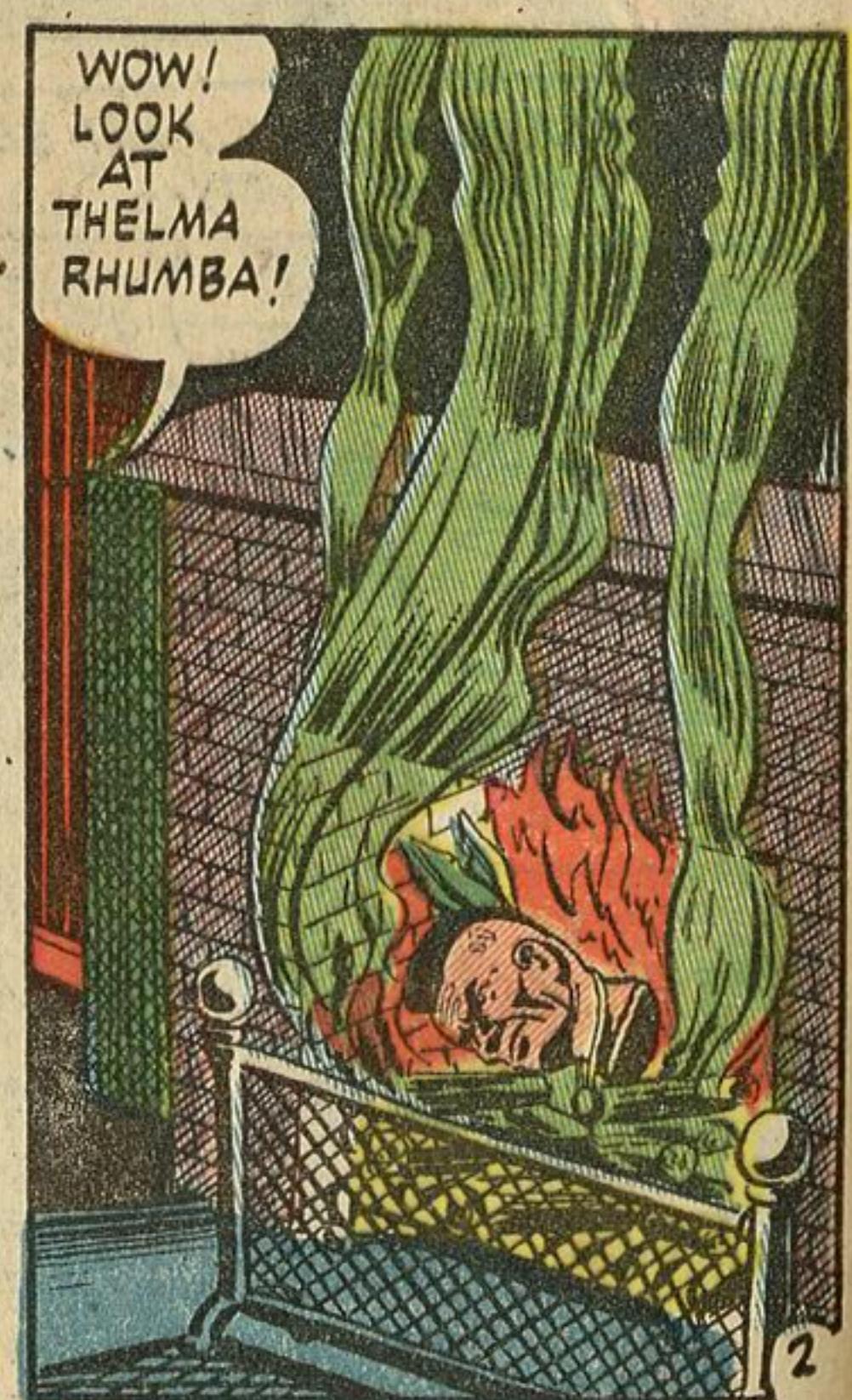
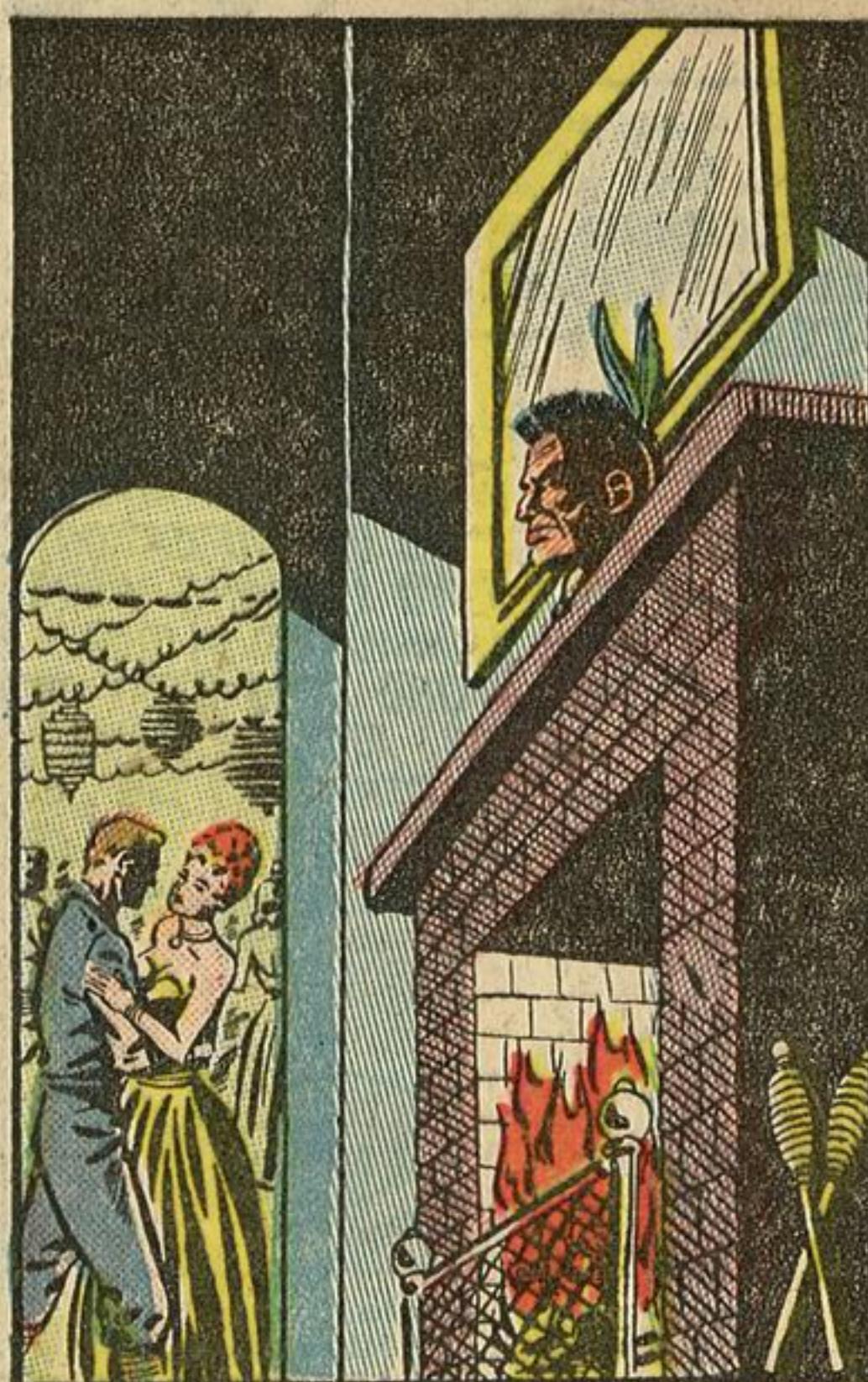


THE PARTY PROGRESSED, GREW MORE BOISTROUS WITH THE PASSING HOURS-- WHILE, FORGOTTEN ABOVE THE MANTLE, THE GRINNING HEAD LEERED DOWN WITH OMINOUS AND TIMELESS PATIENCE --

THEN, AS THE PARTY GREW WILDER STILL, A DANCER'S SHOULDER BRUSHED THE MANTLEPIECE, AND...

TAKE IT EASY, TONY, I'M GETTING DIZZY!

UNERRINGLY, AS THOUGH GUIDED BY THE HAND OF FATE, THE HEAD TOPPLED UNNOTICED INTO THE FIRE! THE HISSING FLAMES FLARED SUDDENLY WITH A GREEN, UNEARTHLY LIGHT...

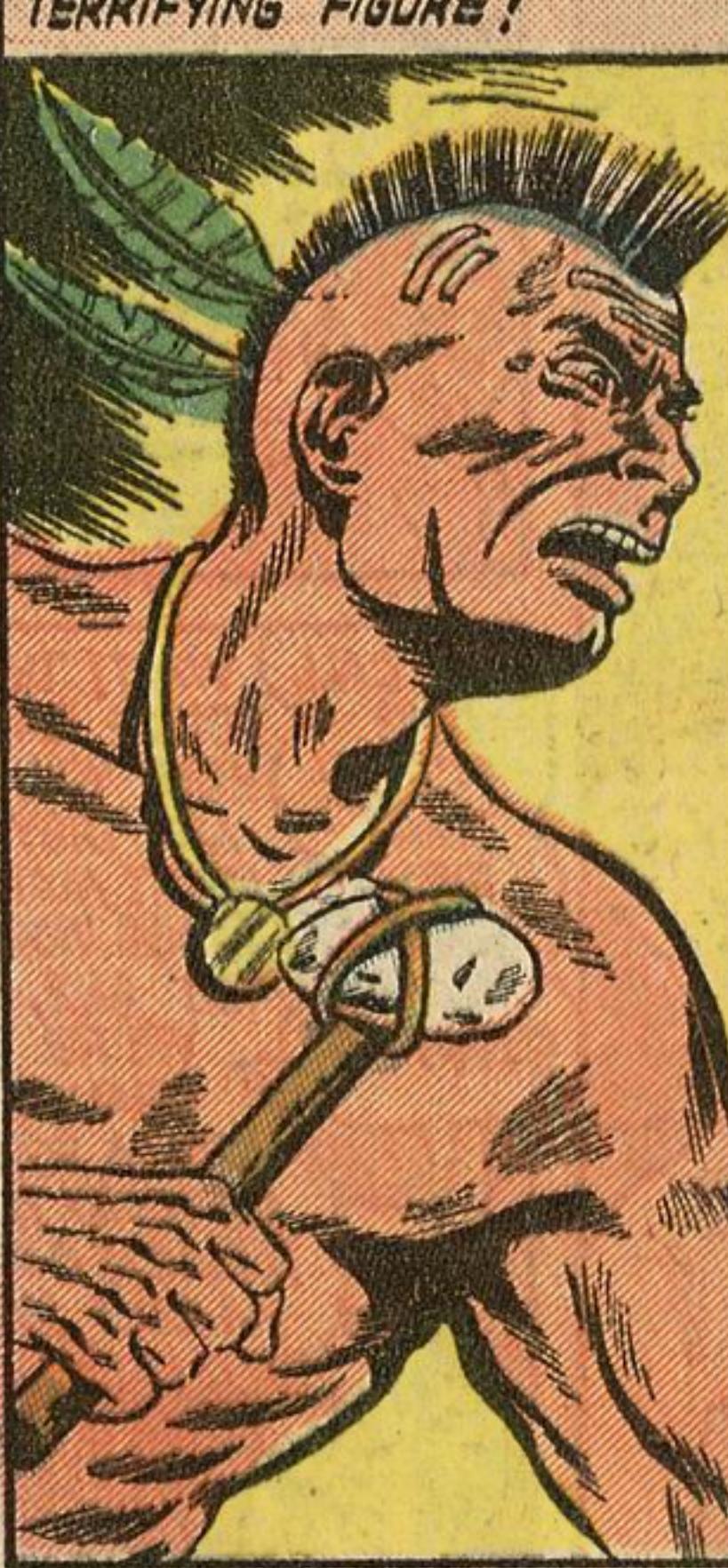
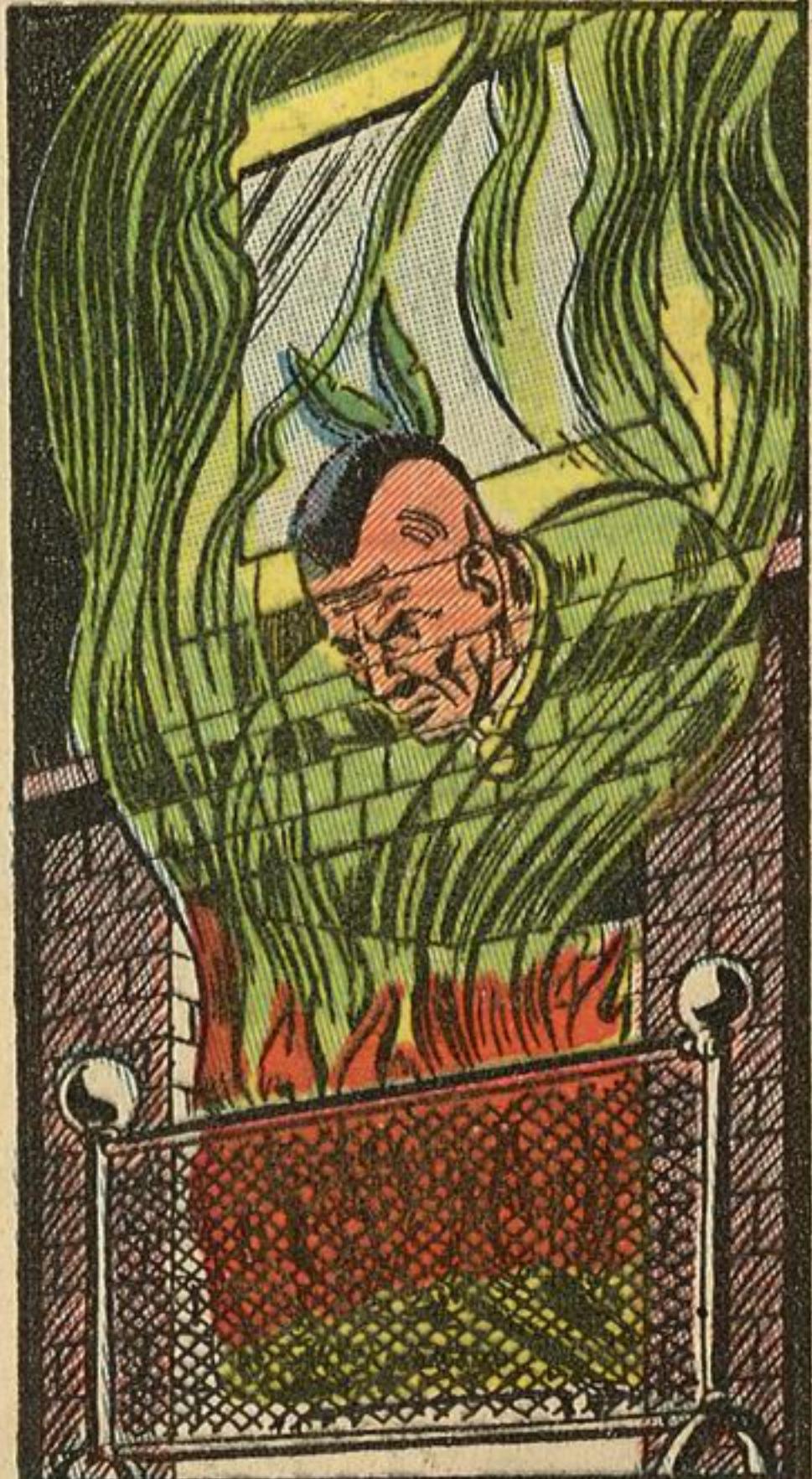


THEN, THE SWIRLING COLUMN OF SMOKE SUDDENLY TOOK FORM!

... AND OUT OF THE FIRE EMERGED A GRIM AND TERRIFYING FIGURE!

HEY! WHO'S THAT IN THE INDIAN COSTUME? JUST LIKE OLD PETE TO HAVE A SURPRISE GUEST COME DRESSED AS BENT ARROW!

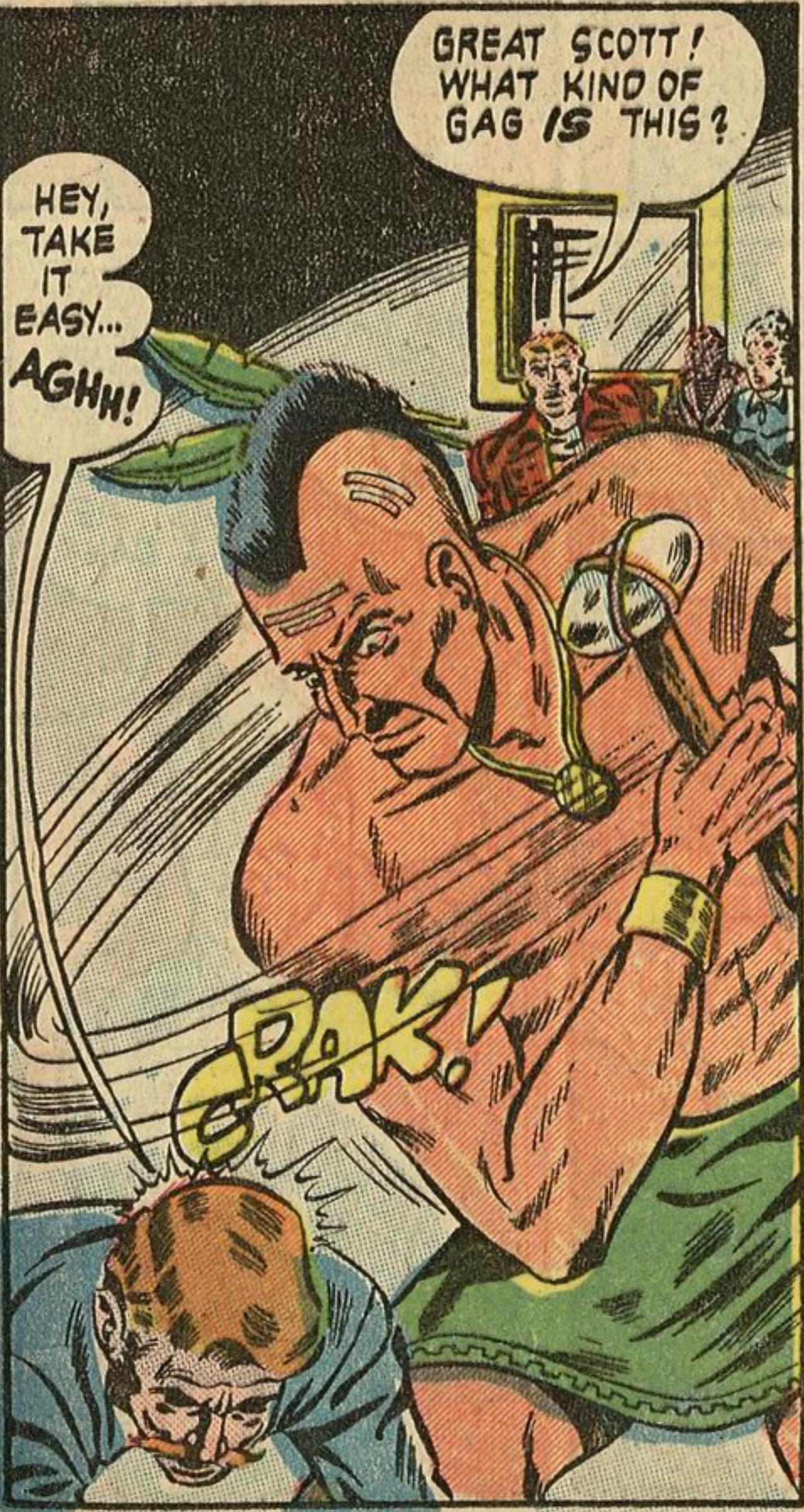
HEY, BIG CHIEF, WHERE'S YOUR SQUAW?



GREAT SCOTT!
WHAT KIND OF
GAG IS THIS?

IT'S NO. GAG! THERE'S A LUNATIC RUNNING AMOK! QUICK-- RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

WHAT TH--?



HOLY SMOKE--
HE'S IN-HUMAN!

YOU-- WHITE MAN WHO CHEAT ME! MUST DIE!

THEN, AS THE HEAVY WAR CLUB WAS POISED FOR A CRUSHING BLOW--



FLINGING PETE VIOLENTLY ASIDE--

THEN, AS THE TERRIFIED GATHERING WATCHED HELPLESSLY...

SQUAW COME WITH BENT ARROW!

GOOD HEAVENS! HE'S MAKING OFF WITH SALLY!

HELP!

I'LL CALL THE POLICE! THAT FIEND HAS GOT TO BE STOPPED!

WAIT! THE POLICE CAN'T HELP YOU, AND THEY MIGHT MAKE THINGS WORSE!

YOU SEE, WE'RE DEALING WITH A FORCE BEYOND THE REACH OF MAN-MADE WEAPONS!

I TRIED TO WARN YOU, PETE! SEE, THE HEAD OF BENT ARROW IS GONE... IT MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO THE FIRE, AND HIS SPIRIT HAS EMERGED FROM THE FLAMES, JUST AS THE LEGEND DECREED!

BUT THAT'S-- FANTASTIC! DO YOU MEAN THAT MONSTER IS ACTUALLY BENT ARROW? AND THAT HE THINKS SALLY IS REALLY HIS INDIAN PRINCESS, PALE SHADOW?

I'VE GOT AN IDEA! IF THIS MUCH OF THE LEGEND HAS COME TRUE, PERHAPS... COME ON, WE HAVEN'T A MINUTE TO LOSE! WHEN HE FINDS OUT SALLY ISN'T PALE SHADOW, SHE'LL BE IN TERRIBLE DANGER!

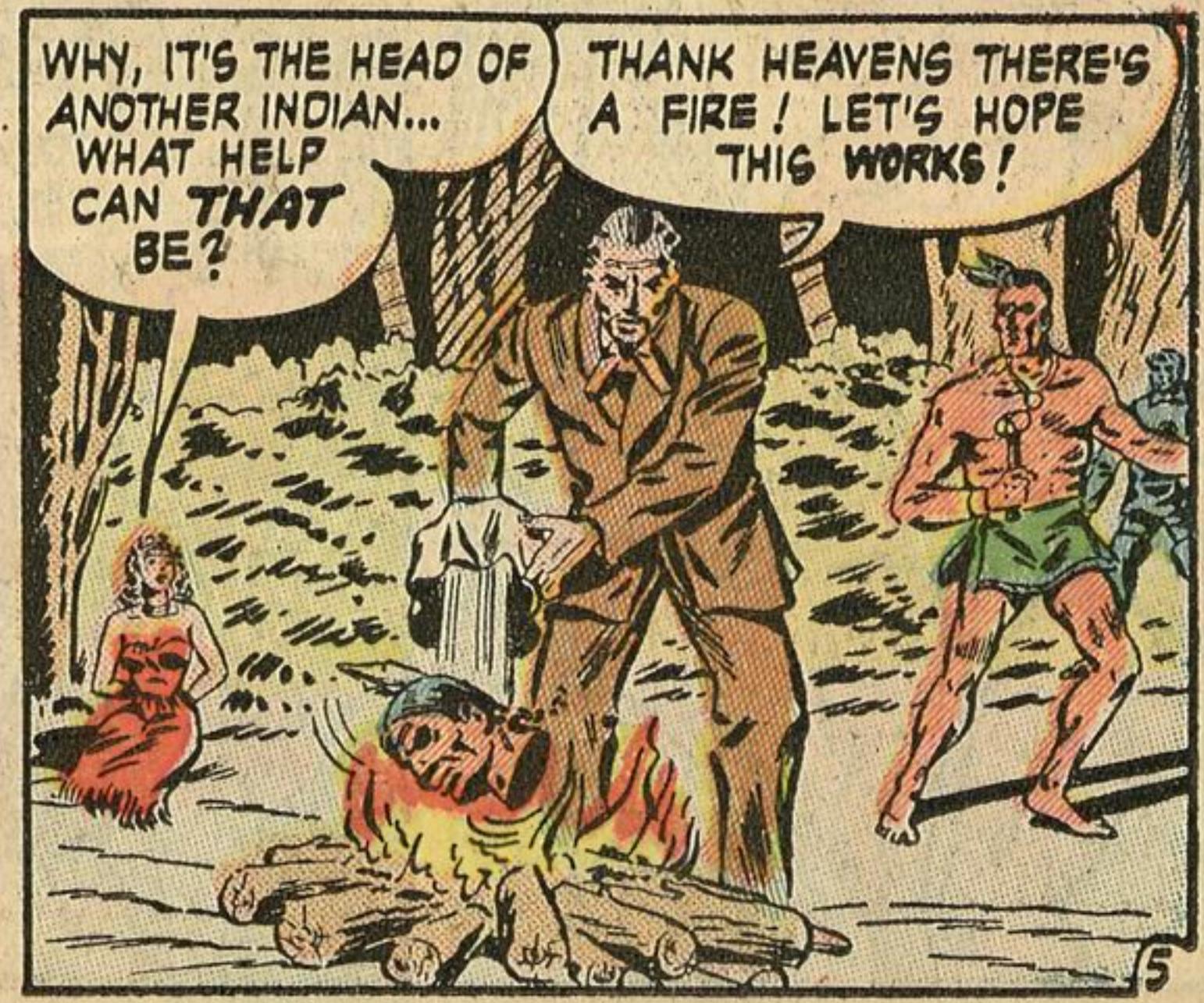
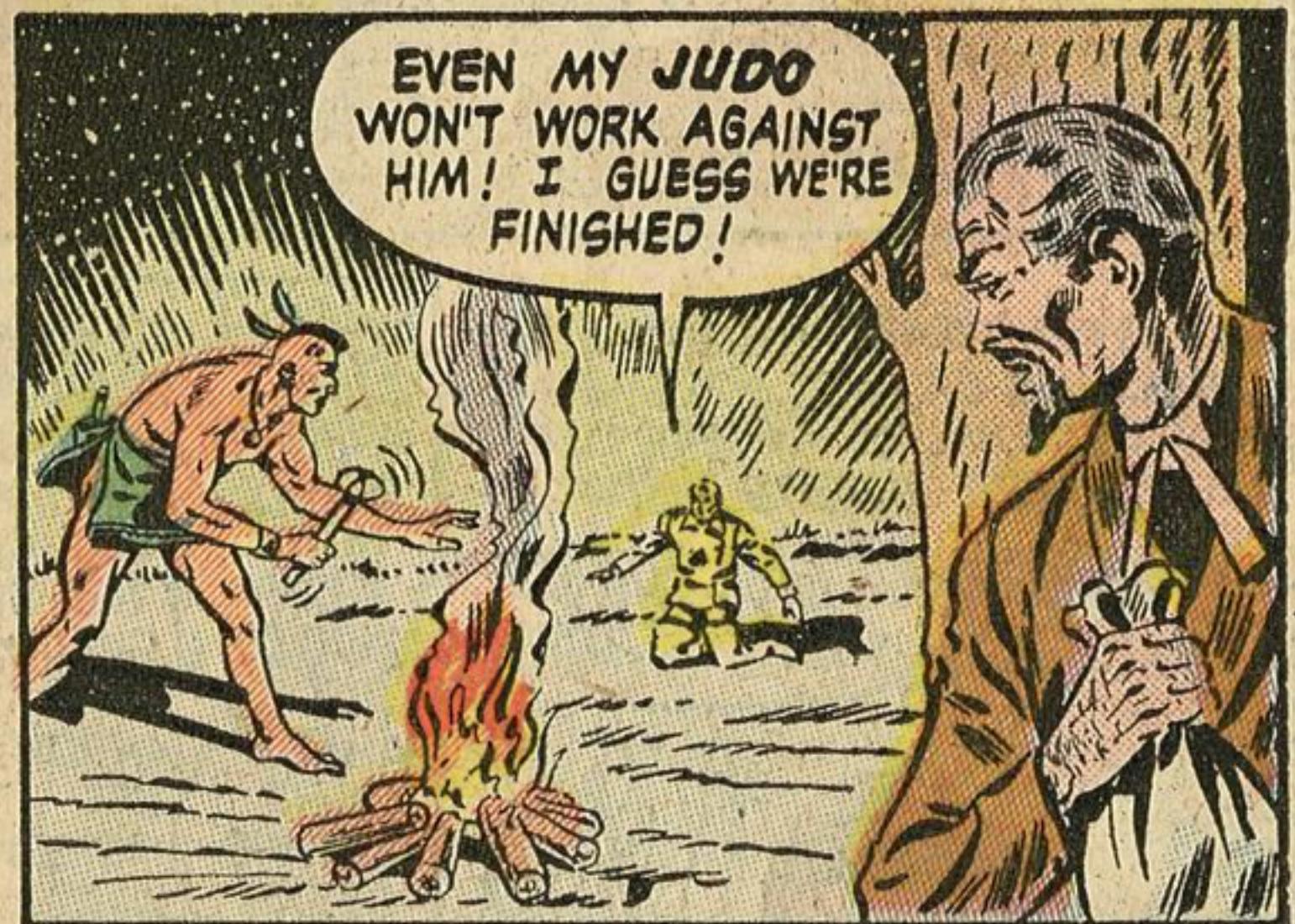
THERE THEY GO-- INTO THE PARK! COME ON, AFTER THEM!

WAIT, PETE... WE'RE HELPLESS AGAINST HIM! THE ONE THING THAT CAN HELP US IS TWO BLOCKS AWAY-- IN THE MUSEUM!

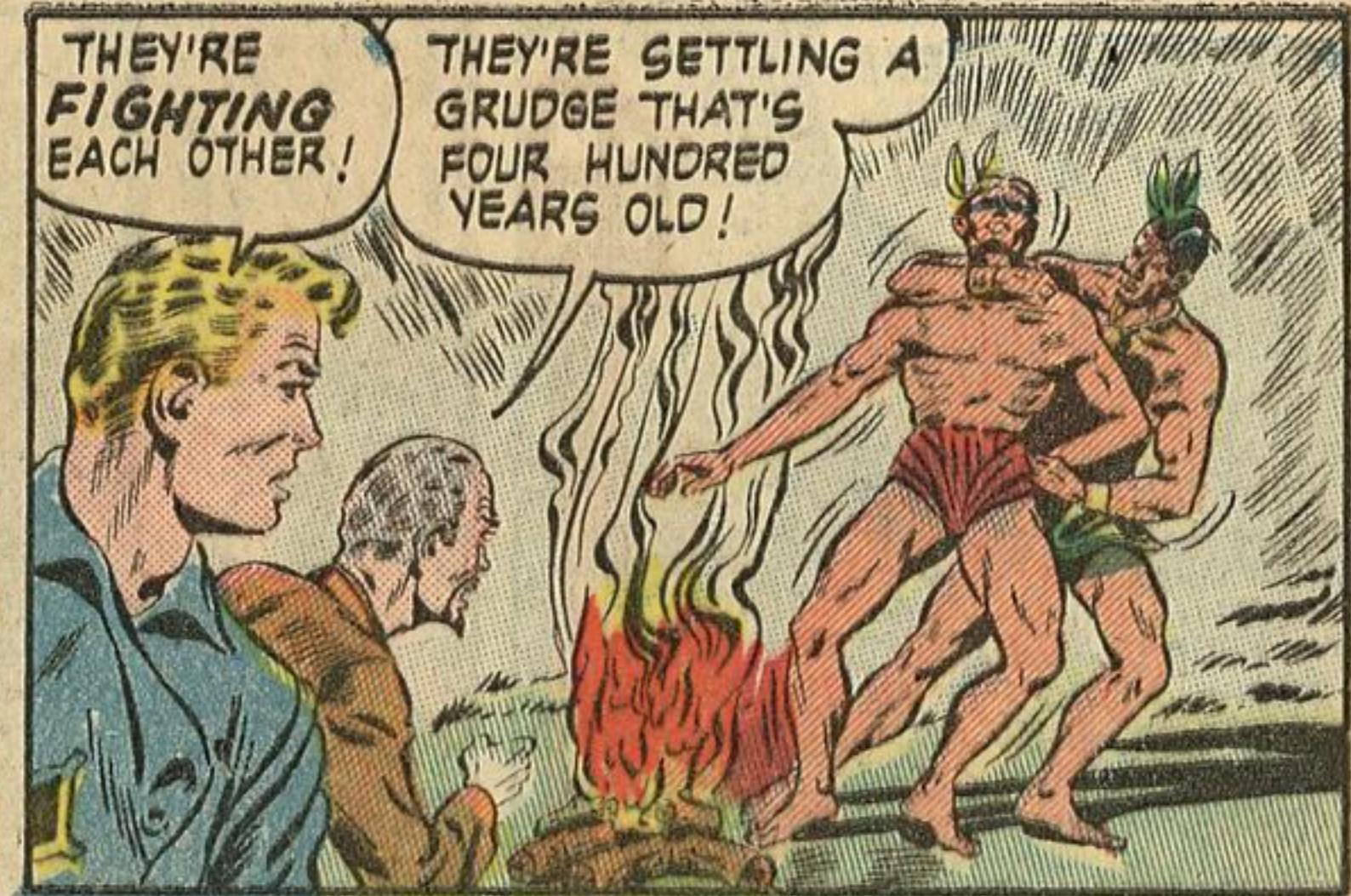
I CAN'T JUST LET HIM CARRY SALLY OFF... I'M GOING AFTER THEM!

IT'S FOOL-HARDY, BUT I CAN'T BLAME YOU! I'LL GET THERE AS FAST AS I CAN!





SUDDENLY, THE FLAMES LICKED UP WITH EERIE BRILLIANCE, AND THEN, FROM THE CURLING PLUME OF SMOKE--



THEN, WITH STARTLING SWIFTNESS, THE COURSE OF BATTLE TURNED! AND, AS IRON-LIKE FINGERS CLOSED AROUND BENT ARROW'S THROAT--



YES, BENT ARROW'S GONE NOW--

WE'VE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM HIM-- HE'S BOUND FOR THE HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS! YOU SEE, HE WAS THE BRAVE PALE SHADOW REALLY LOVED! WHEN BENT ARROW TRIED TO RUN OFF WITH HER, HE FOLLOWED-- BUT THEY WERE ALL DROWNED WHEN THEIR CANOES CAPSIZED, BEFORE THE TWO MEN COULD MEET IN COMBAT!

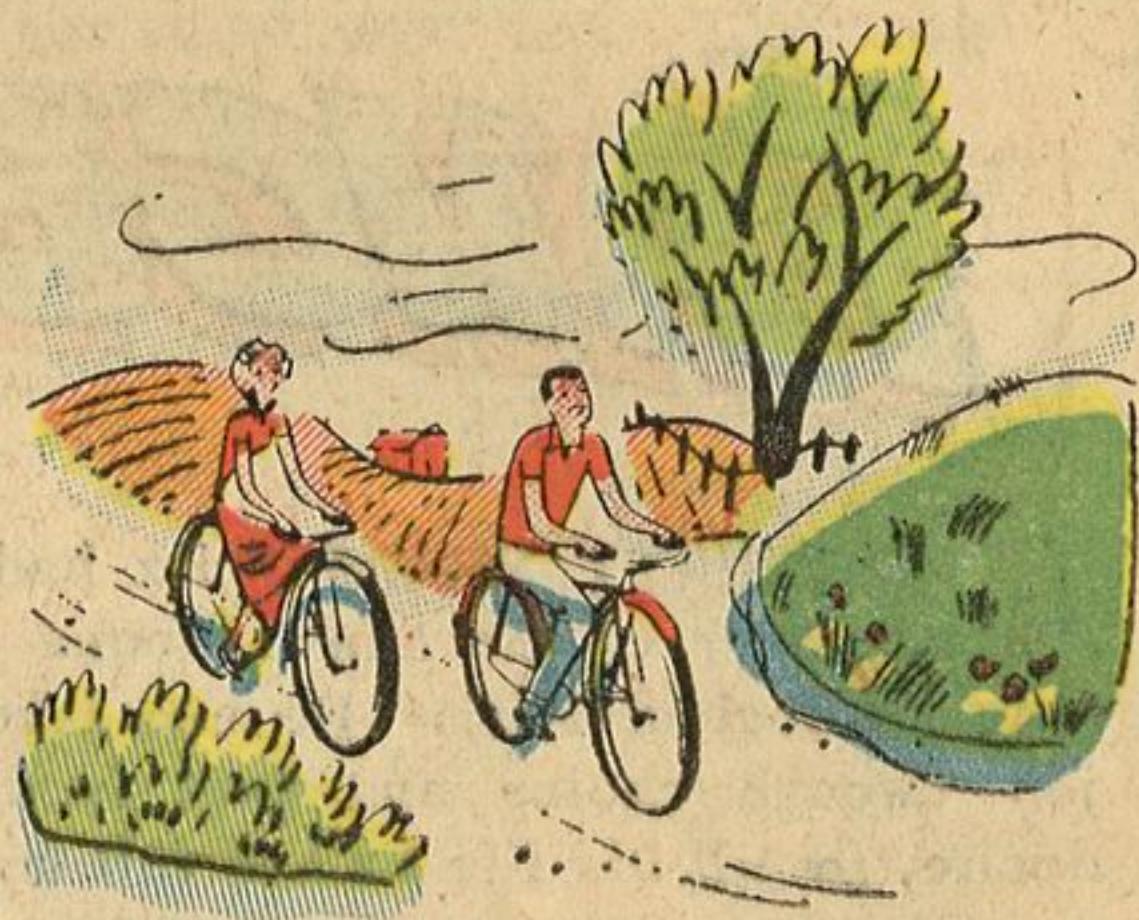
SO THEIR BODIES HAD TO BE REVITALIZED BY FIRE BEFORE THEY COULD SETTLE THEIR FEUD! LUCKY FOR US THE RIGHT MAN WON!

JUST THE SAME, I HOPE YOU'LL SETTLE FOR A VASE OF FLOWERS ON THE MANTLE FROM NOW ON!





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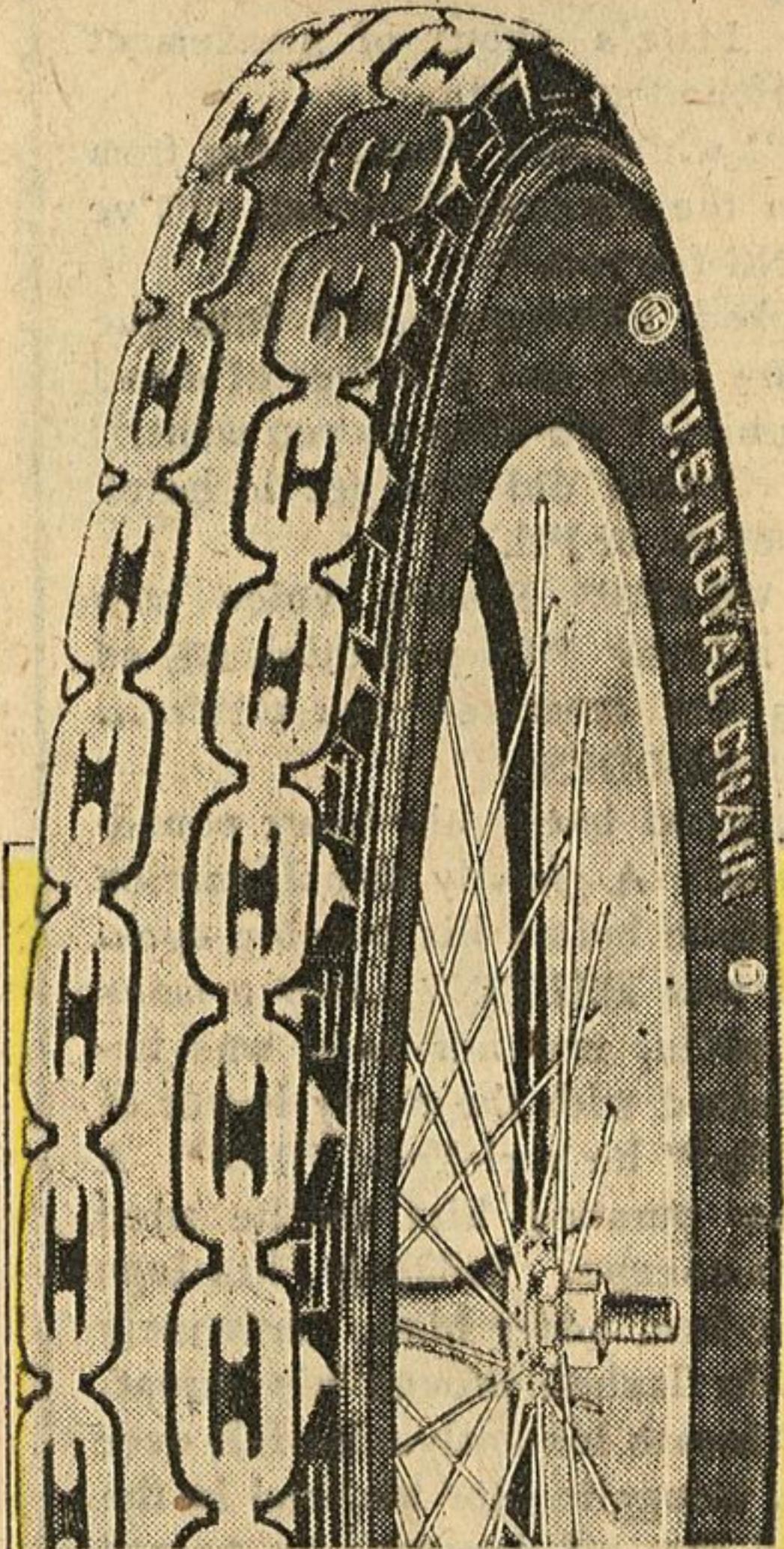


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FANGED FURY

FOR THIRTY YEARS Fritz had been caretaker of the Snake House at the City Zoological Park. He had taken the job through choice and kept it through desire, for all his life he had felt an overpowering hatred for serpents. While carrying out his regular duties he kept his hatred well under control, for the trustees would never have tolerated his sadistic cruelty, but after hours, when the visitors were gone and the park was closed, Fritz gave complete vent to his maniacal impulses. It gave him infinite pleasure to thrust hot pokers through the thin air slots and make the serpents writhe in agony. Sometimes he sprayed pepper into their eyes. Often he doused their cages with boiling water. He was a tight-lipped, wary old man, and for thirty years no one learned of his cruelty.

Then along came Rima, a dark-haired, almost mystically beautiful girl. Fritz had watched her stare at the snakes for hours every day, as if hypnotically fascinated. Finally, after months of constant attendance, Fritz had spoken to her. "You...like snakes?" he asked, in his high, cracked voice. Rima had leveled her infinitely deep dark eyes and smiled. "Few people like snakes," she'd replied. "You don't...you LOATHE them."

Her manner had been strangely disarming, and Fritz found himself admitting things he'd never told anyone before. "Yes, I do hate them, and I'd gladly torture to death every snake in the universe." He had laughed, his lips twisted into a cruel leer. Rima had merely smiled, her expression enigmatic.

One day Rima stopped coming to the zoo. Fritz wondered about it for a while, missed her, and then forgot her completely. But for some obscure reason, she had leapt into his thoughts, when a magnificent cobra was acquired by the zoo, donated under rather mysterious circumstances. After the cobra was placed in its cage, Fritz took a moment off to look at it curl into a lazy mass. Immediately he

began thinking ahead...to nightfall, when he could get at it.

The zoo was closed and everything silent when Fritz finished cleaning up. He snapped off the lights in the Snake House and went to the cobra's cage, carrying an oil lantern to illuminate the scene. His eyes sparkled with evil anticipation as he peered into the cage, and then...he turned pale with horror!

Somehow, the cobra had escaped! Instantly, realizing that he was in great danger, Fritz streaked for the caretaker's room to get his gun and call the police. "But...it's not possible!" he thought. "That cage was closed! It's closed NOW! How did it get out?"

"RIMA!" Fritz's shout of amazement split the profound stillness.

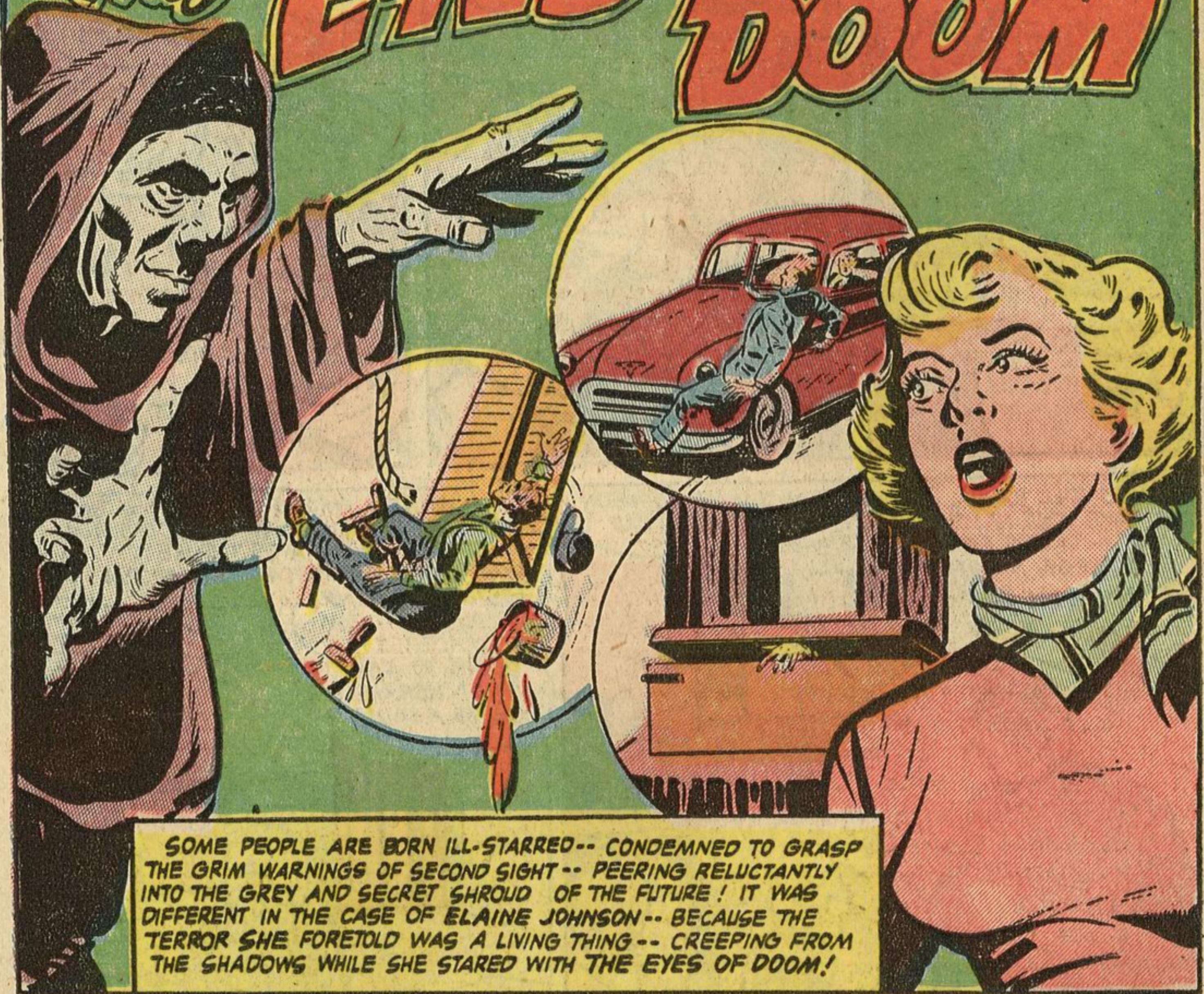
"At last," whispered Rima, rising from the chair in the caretaker's room. "I've been WAITING for you."

Fritz looked half-hypnotized into the girl's glowing eyes, and a shiver of dread passed over him. "Wh-What do you want?" he gasped. "How did you get in here? Quick, answer me or I'll..."

"You'll WHAT?" Rima's voice was almost like a hiss. "Do you think ME as helpless as the creatures you torture...me, a SNAKE GODDESS?"

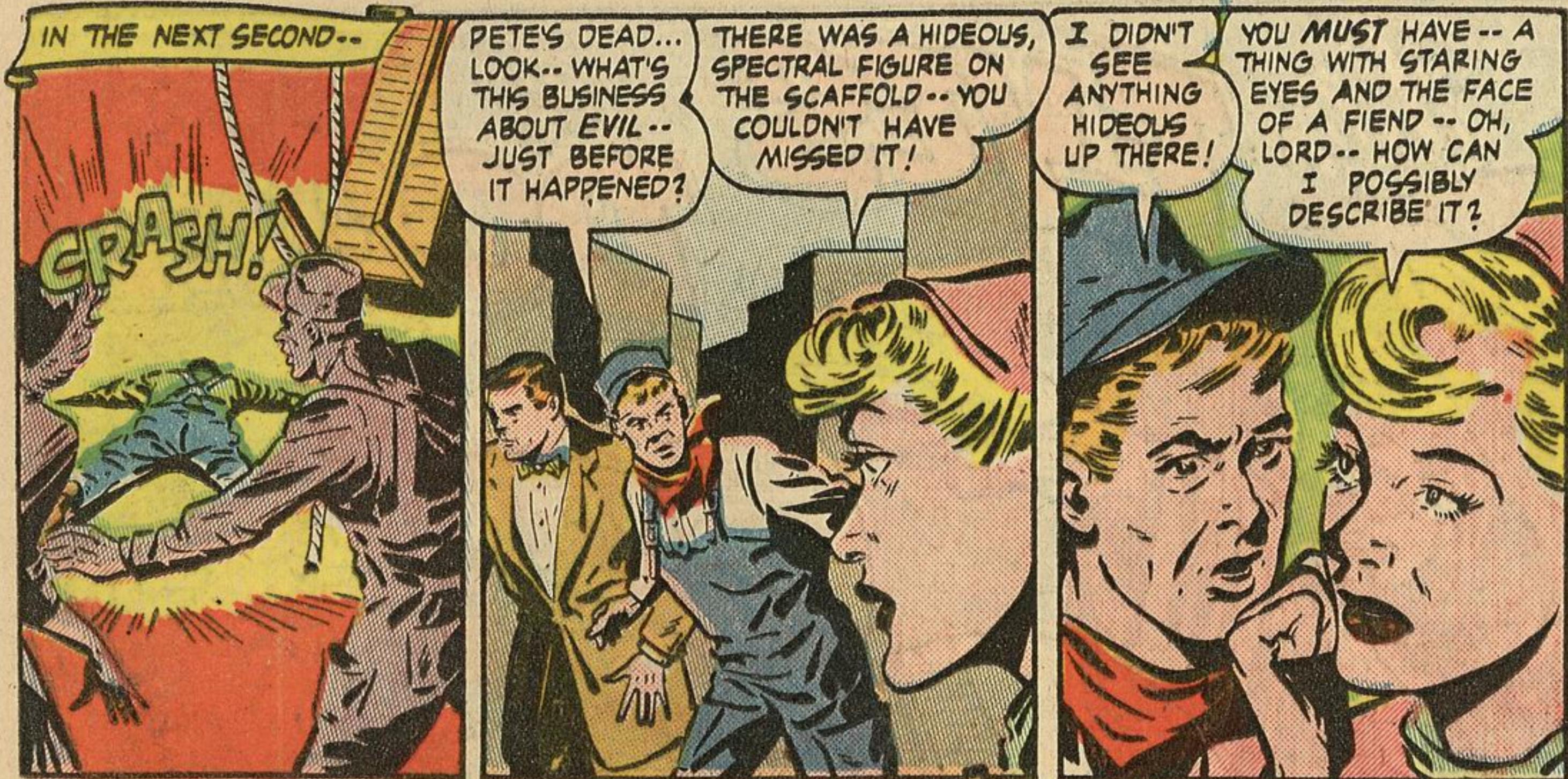
Fritz staggered back, his heart pounding with terror. A ghastly transformation was taking place before his bulging eyes. Rima's form was MELTING...into a mass of writhing coils, and her head was becoming encrusted with the scaly horror of serpents. "No!" he shrieked. "NO!" A spitting hiss pursued him as he tried frantically to escape. Suddenly, his legs were cut out from under him. Immensely powerful coils lashed around his throat, stopping his breath instantly. He fell over on his back, struggling for air, and in the half-light of the oil lantern, he peered into the unspeakably evil eyes of a cobra. But they were also the eyes of RIMA, glinting terror, as her coils tightened around his throat relentlessly.

The EYES of DOOM



SOME PEOPLE ARE BORN ILL-STARRING-- CONDEMNED TO GRASP THE GRIM WARNINGS OF SECOND SIGHT-- PEERING RELUCTANTLY INTO THE GREY AND SECRET SHROUD OF THE FUTURE! IT WAS DIFFERENT IN THE CASE OF ELAINE JOHNSON-- BECAUSE THE TERROR SHE FORETOLD WAS A LIVING THING-- CREEPING FROM THE SHADOWS WHILE SHE STARED WITH THE EYES OF DOOM!





TAKE A LOOK AT THIS SAFETY BELT! THE BUCKLE WOULDN'T HAVE HELD FOR MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS .. AND THEN I'D HAVE HAD A TWELVE-STORY PLUNGE !

IT-- IT WAS THE SAME EVIL PHANTOM I SAW YESTERDAY-- AND THANK HEAVENS THIS TIME I SAW IT SOON ENOUGH!

ER-- YOU'VE BEEN WORKING PRETTY HARD! MAYBE YOU'D BETTER GO HOME AND TAKE THINGS EASY FOR A FEW DAYS!

I CAN'T BLAME PEOPLE FOR SCOFFING AT SOMETHING ONLY I CAN SEE! BUT NOW THAT I'VE PROVED I CAN CHEAT THAT FIEND OF ITS VICTIMS, IT'S EASY TO SEE WHAT'LL HAPPEN NEXT-- IT'S GOING TO COME AFTER ME!



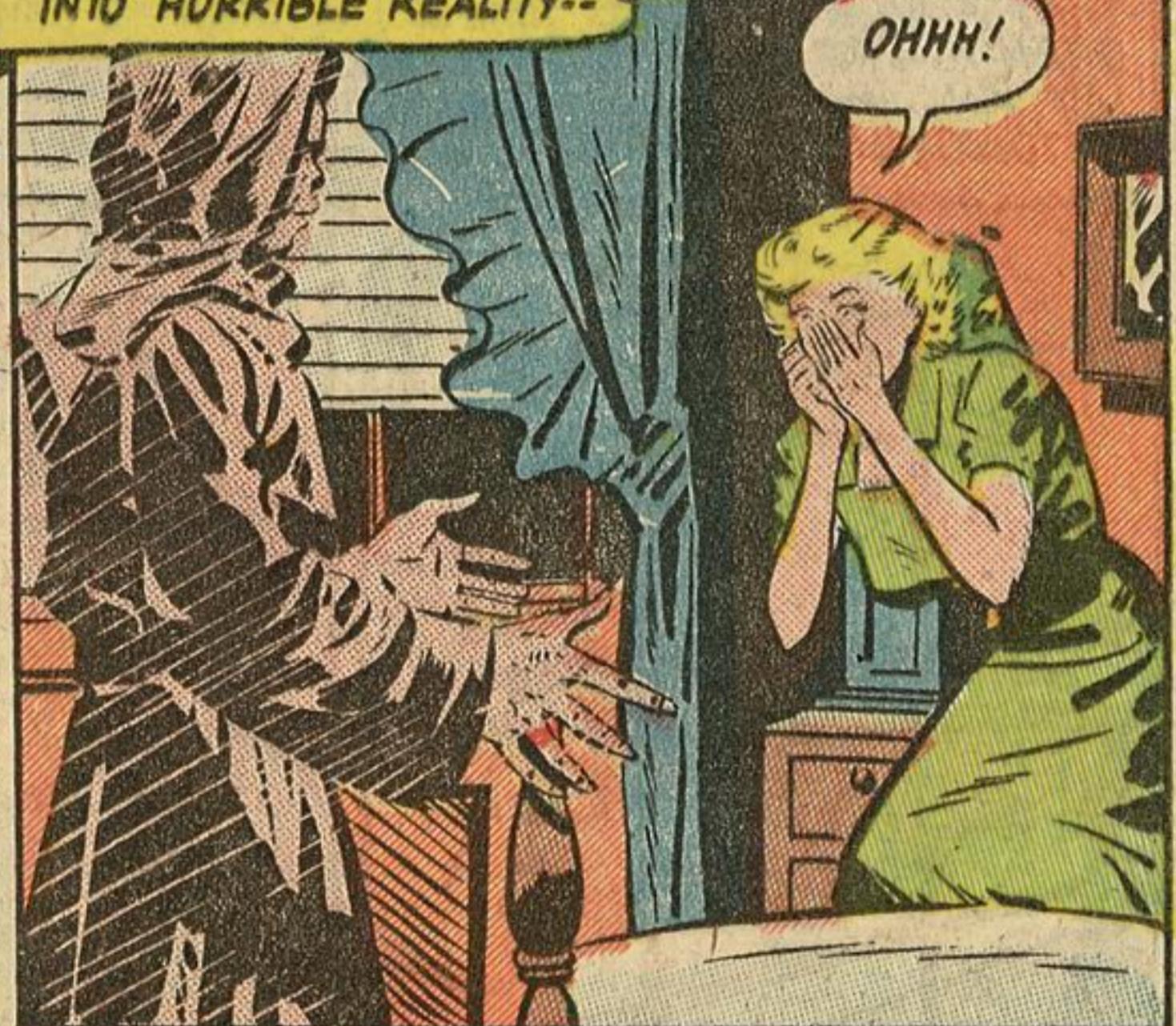
THAT EVENING--

I'M TRYING TO DIVERT MY THOUGHTS, BUT READING DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD-- I CAN'T FIGHT OFF THE DREAD THAT'S STEALING CLOSER EVERY MINUTE!



THEN-- AS IF ELAINE'S FEARS LOOMED INTO HORRIBLE REALITY--

OHHH!



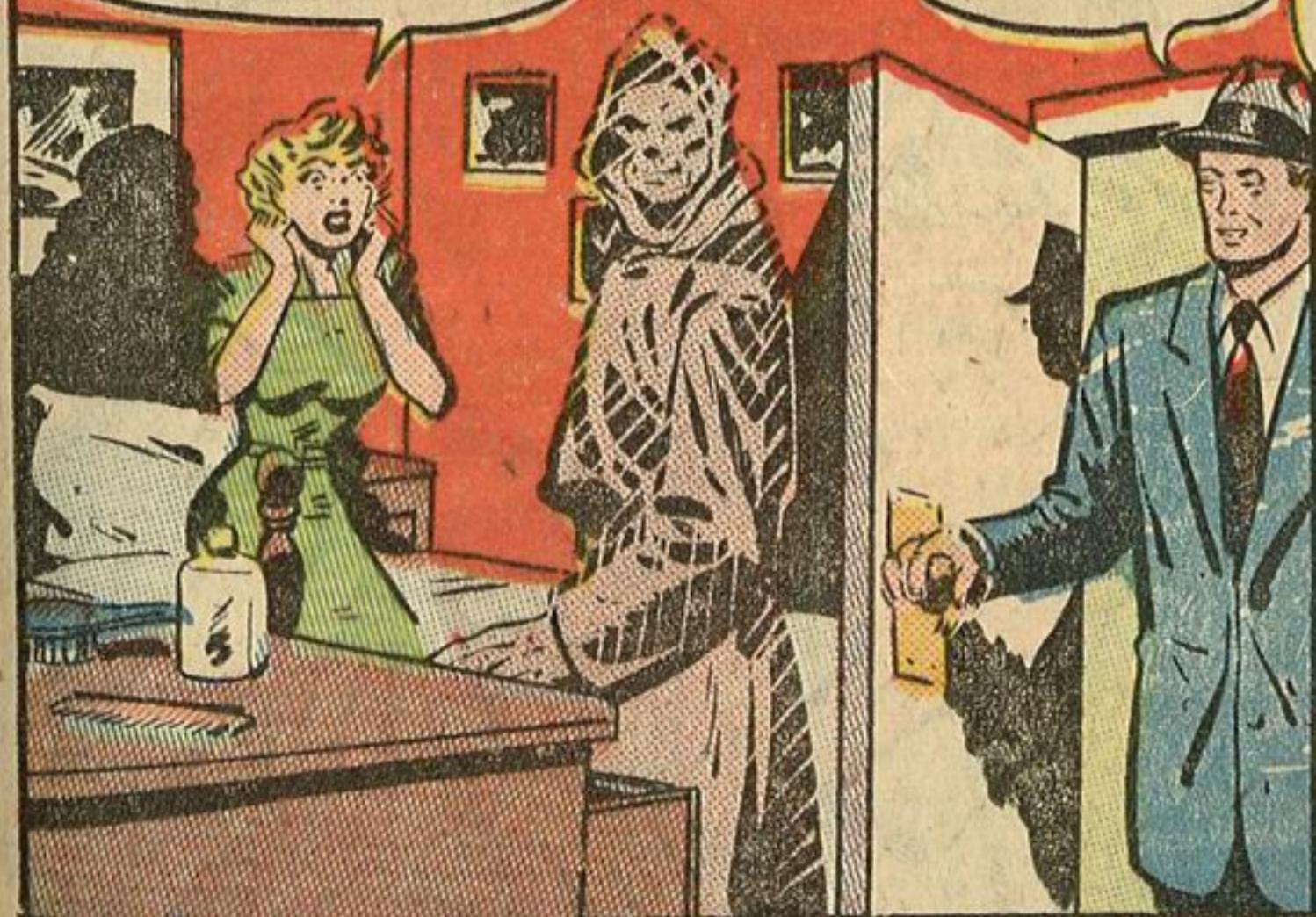
THEN-- AS THE FEARSOME FIGURE UNEXPECTEDLY TURNS--

I'LL DIE -- I'LL DIE THE INSTANT IT TOUCHES ME!

HOLY SMOKE-- WHAT GOES ON HERE?

LOOK-- LOOK! GOOD HEAVENS-- IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!

EASY, BABY-- COME OFF IT! THE "DAILY EXPRESS" SENT ME TO GET A STORY ABOUT THAT THING YOU SAW AT THE SCAFFOLD ACCIDENT-- BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE IT THIS REALISTIC!



THE GHOST IS HEADING TOWARD THE WINDOW! YOU MAY THINK I'M INSANE, BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON WHY IT WOULD LEAVE SO ABRUPTLY-- SOMETHING HORRIBLE'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN NEAR HERE!

SECONDS LATER...

WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT?

YOU LOOK..
I DON'T DARE!

BLAM!



GREAT GUNS-- THAT MAN'S BEEN KILLED BY AN AUTOMOBILE!

I KNEW IT! EVERY TIME I SEE THAT FIEND -- IT'S THROUGH THE EYES OF DOOM!

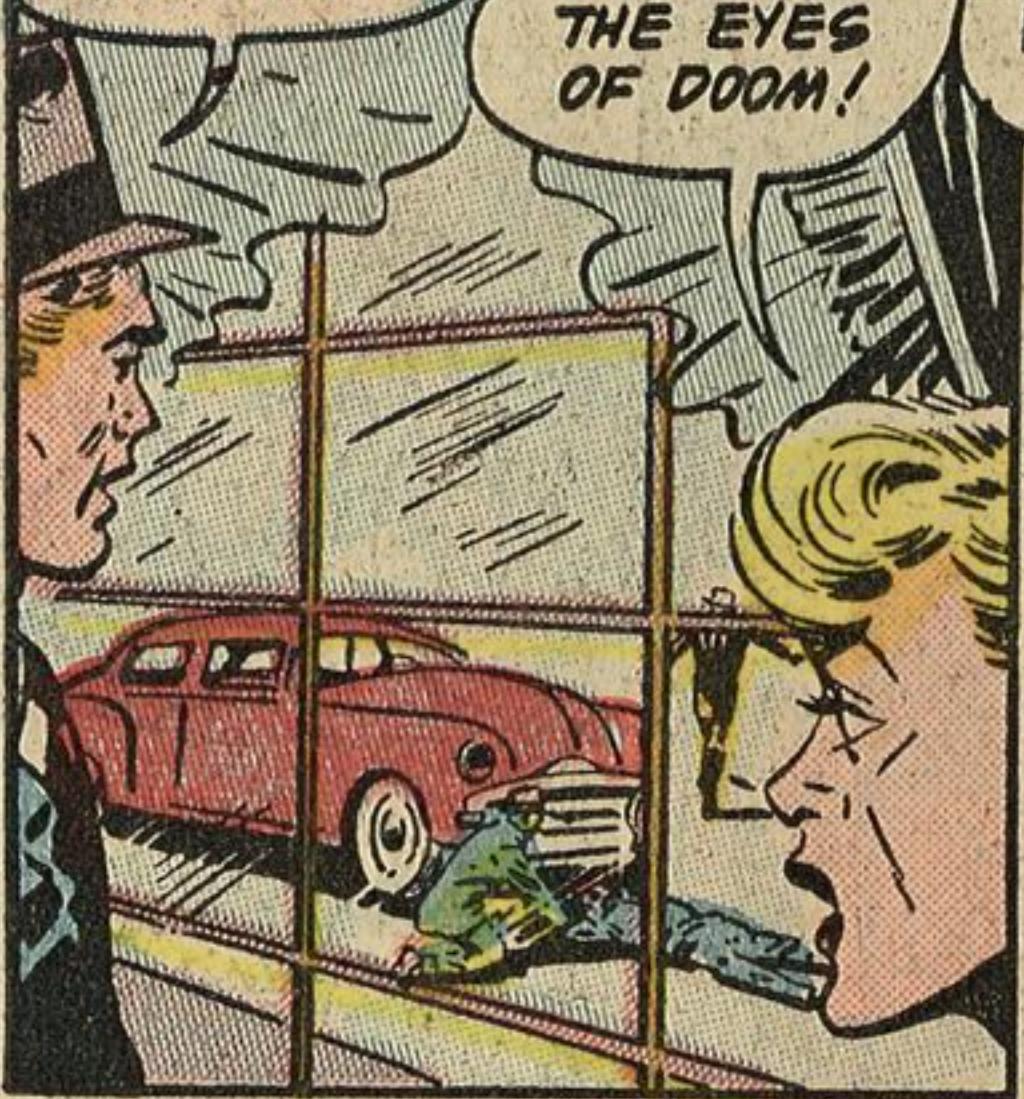
HELLO-- CITY ROOM? BETTER SEND A MAN TO COVER AN ACCIDENT AT MONTFORD AND NINTH! YEP, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET ELAINE JOHNSON'S STORY-- BUT THAT'LL BE TOO ABSURD TO PRINT!

ABSURD? GOOD HEAVENS-- WHAT ELSE HAS TO HAPPEN BEFORE I CAN CONVINCE YOU?

THAT CREATURE

WAS READY TO SEIZE ME-- THEN IT PAUSED-- AND TURNED TOWARD THE CHEST OF DRAWERS!

IT DOESN'T TIE, HONEY! WHAT'S THERE THAT WOULD ATTRACT A SPIRIT-- ASPIRIN? A COMB?



SPEAKING OF ASPIRIN-- I'M JUST ABOUT READY FOR A COUPLE AT THIS STAGE! I DON'T BUY THIS GHOST ANGLE-- BUT I'VE GOT TO ADMIT SOME PRETTY STRANGE THINGS SEEM TO HAPPEN AROUND YOU!

PLEASE-- YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN! THE NEXT TIME THAT FIEND APPEARS-- IT'LL COME TO KILL ME-- AND IT MAY BE TONIGHT!

EASY... DUNNO WHAT I CAN DO, ELAINE-- BUT I'LL TRY!



GOOD THING I WAS ABLE TO REACH YOU, DON! THE POLICE HAVE JUST CORNERED CHESTY ROGERS-- THE MAD DOG BANDIT! HE'S TRAPPED IN A HOUSE AT RIVER ROAD JUNCTION-- DROP THAT ELAINE JOHNSON ANGLE AND GET OUT THERE FAST!

WISH I COULD STICK AROUND HONEY-- BUT THIS STORY'S RED-HOT! KEEP YOUR CHIN UP-- I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT COMING BACK LATER!

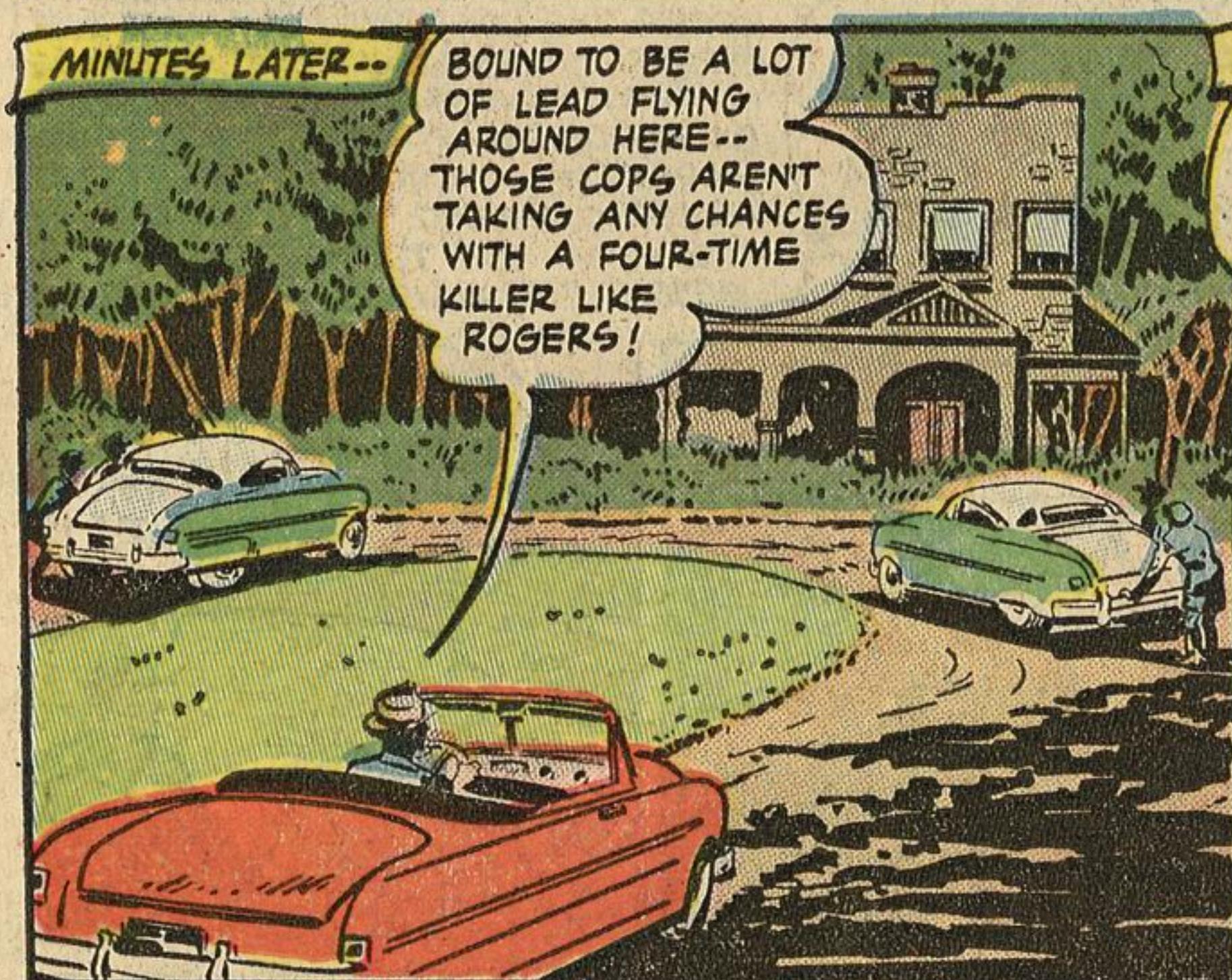
PROMISE YOU WON'T FORGET! I'VE GOT TO COUNT ON SOMEONE -- I CAN'T FACE THAT TERROR ALONE!

CHECK-- I'M ON MY WAY!



MINUTES LATER--

BOUND TO BE A LOT OF LEAD FLYING AROUND HERE-- THOSE COPS AREN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES WITH A FOUR-TIME KILLER LIKE ROGERS!



SUDDENLY--

HOLY MACKEREL-- WHAT'S THAT THING UP ON THE ROOF?

WHERE? I DON'T SEE A THING!



THEN--

NEVER MIND THE ROOF-- I GOT HIM!

UP ON THE ROOF, HE SAYS! GOOD THING WE DIDN'T GET SPOOKED UP BY THAT GUY'S IMAGINATION-- WITH CHESTY ROGERS READY TO FIRE FROM THE WINDOW!

VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED-- THAT COULDN'T BE ANYTHING BUT THE PHANTOM THAT'S PLAGUING ELAINE! BUT IF I WASN'T ABLE TO SEE IT AT HER HOME-- HOW COME IT WAS VISIBLE THIS TIME?

GREAT GUNS! IT'S A FANTASTIC POSSIBILITY-- BUT WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?



SOON AFTERWARDS.. AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS..

OKAY, POWELL.. YOU WANT OUR LAB TO ANALYZE THESE ASPIRIN BECAUSE YOU THINK THEY'LL EXPLAIN THAT JOHNSON GIRL'S SPOOK! ANY OTHER BRIGHT LITTLE IDEAS WE CAN HELP YOU WITH?

YEP! I WANT YOU TO SEND OUT AN EMERGENCY TRUCK.. TO PICK UP A HEAVY BRONZE COFFIN FOR CHESTY ROGERS!

BRONZE COFFIN... BOY, YOU'RE GONE.. YOU'RE JUST ABOUT READY FOR THE SQUIRREL HATCH!

COULD BE.. BUT LISTEN! IF ELAINE WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE GHOST.. SUPPOSE SHE'S RIGHT ABOUT ITS COMING BACK TONIGHT TO KILL HER?

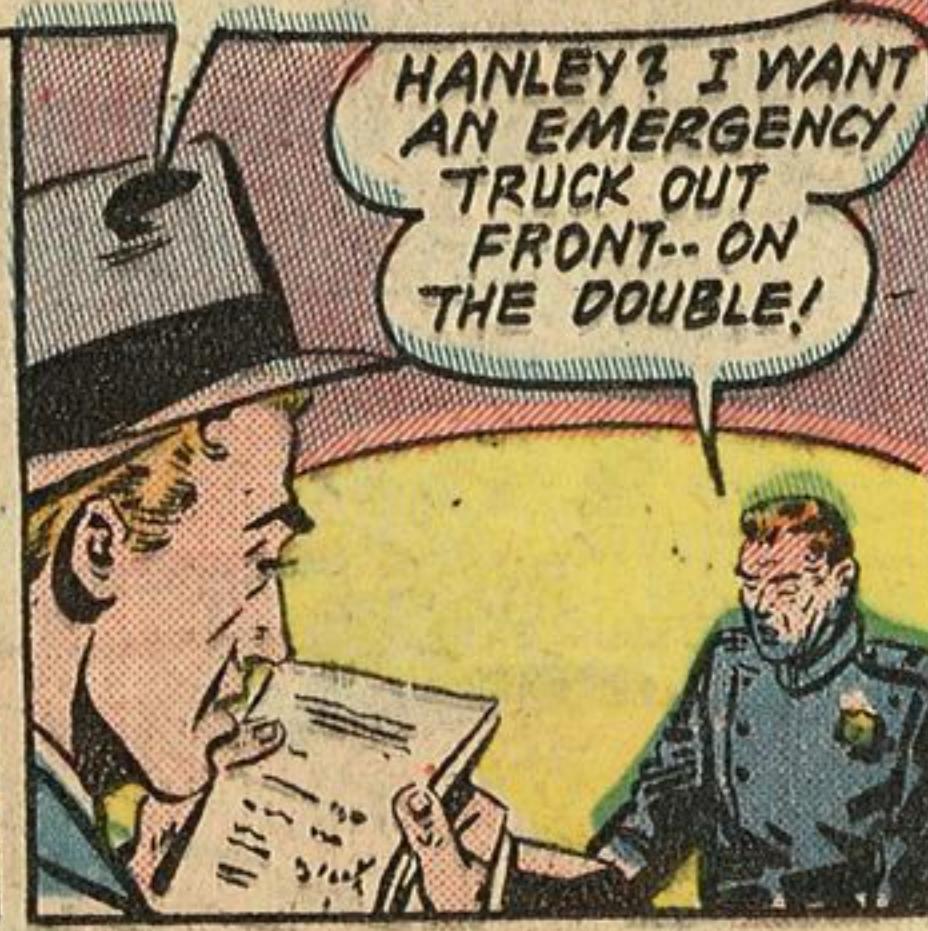
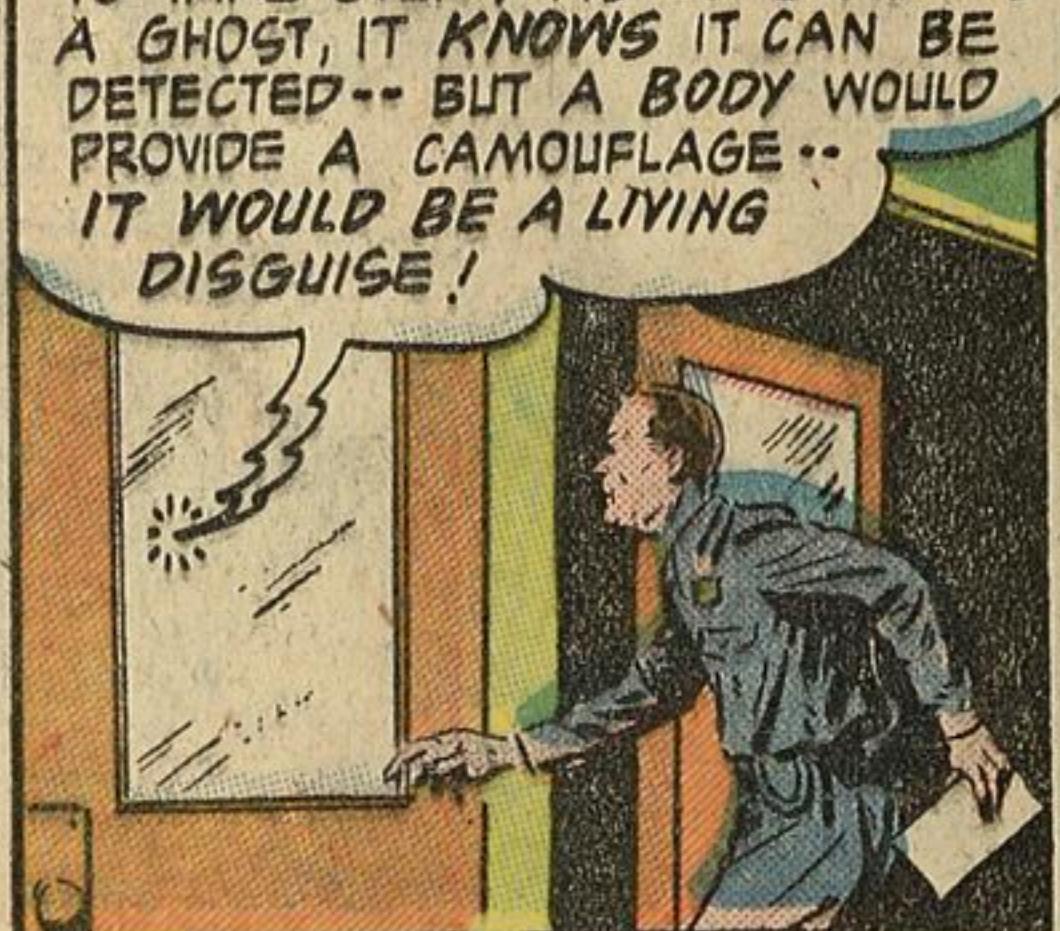


LOOK, INSPECTOR.. THAT THING ISN'T MERELY A BROODING SPIRIT THAT GLOATS OVER SCENES OF VIOLENCE! IT'S A LIVING EVIL WITHOUT FORM! AND SUPPOSE IT WAS TO FIND ITS EXACT OPPOSITE-- AN EVIL FORM WITHOUT LIFE-- WOULDN'T IT TRY TO TAKE OVER? AS LONG AS IT'S A GHOST, IT KNOWS IT CAN BE DETECTED-- BUT A BODY WOULD PROVIDE A CAMOUFLAGE-- IT WOULD BE A LIVING DISGUISE!

OKAY, DON-- HERE'S THAT LAB REPORT!

NICE GOING, STEVE.. LET'S HAVE A LOOK!

HERE'S THE LOWDOWN FROM YOUR OWN EXPERTS, INSPECTOR! "COAL TAR BASE IN ASPIRIN CHANGED TO DYCYNANIN BY ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE TO MASSIVE RADIATION... DYCYNANIN IS A LITTLE-KNOWN COMPOUND THAT SENSITIZES THE HUMAN EYE TO VIBRATIONS BEYOND THE VISIBLE SPECTRUM!"



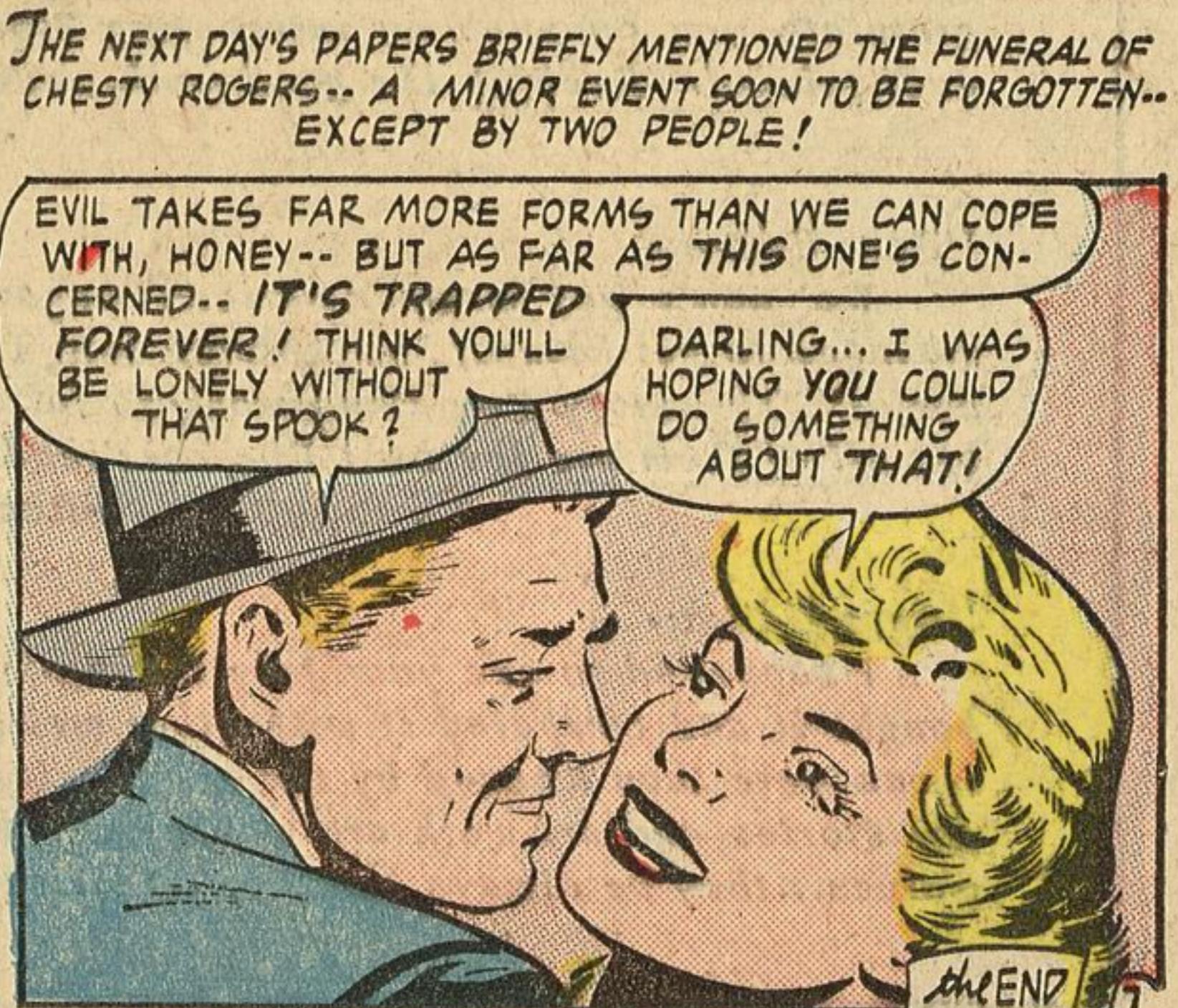
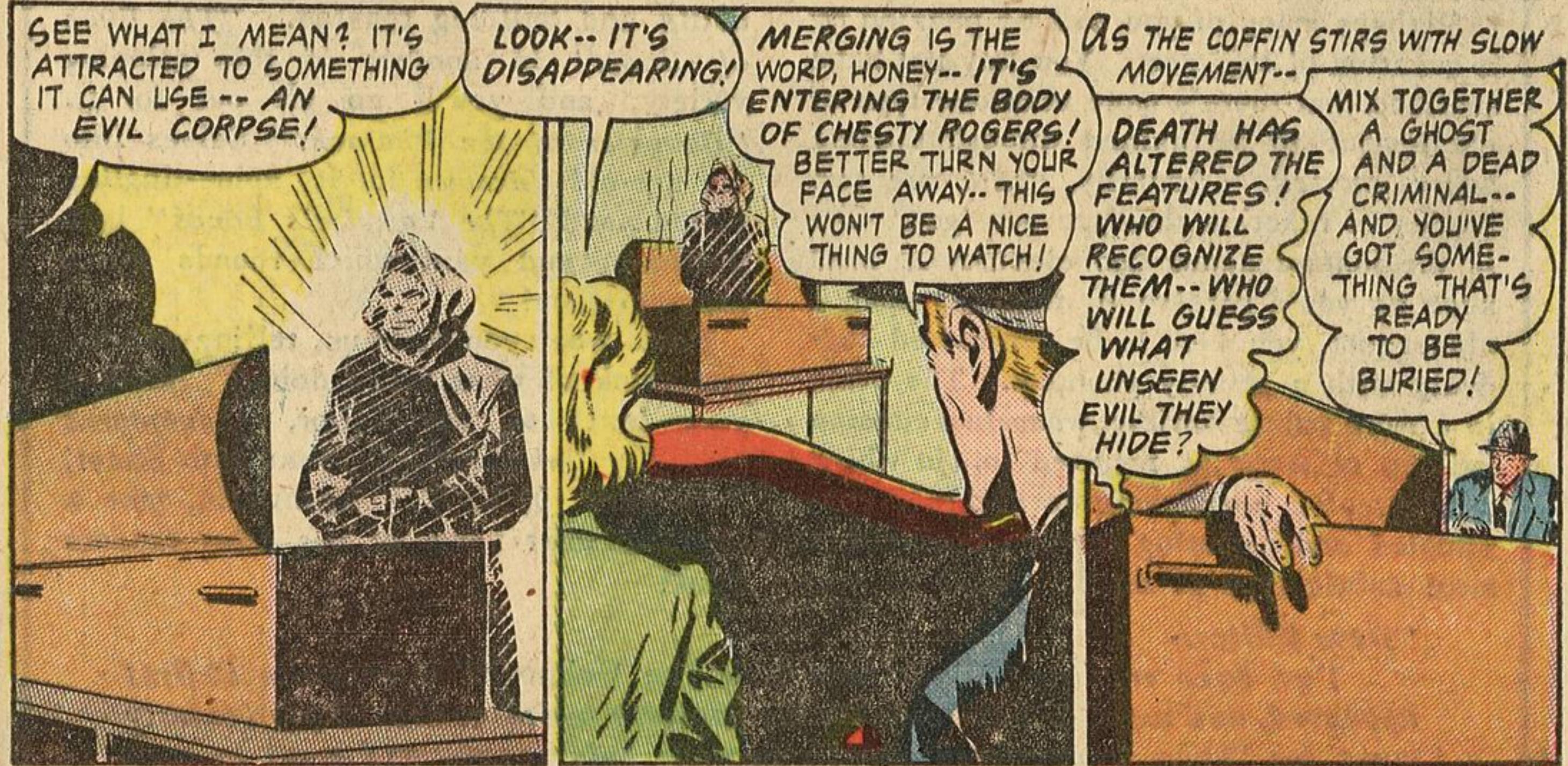
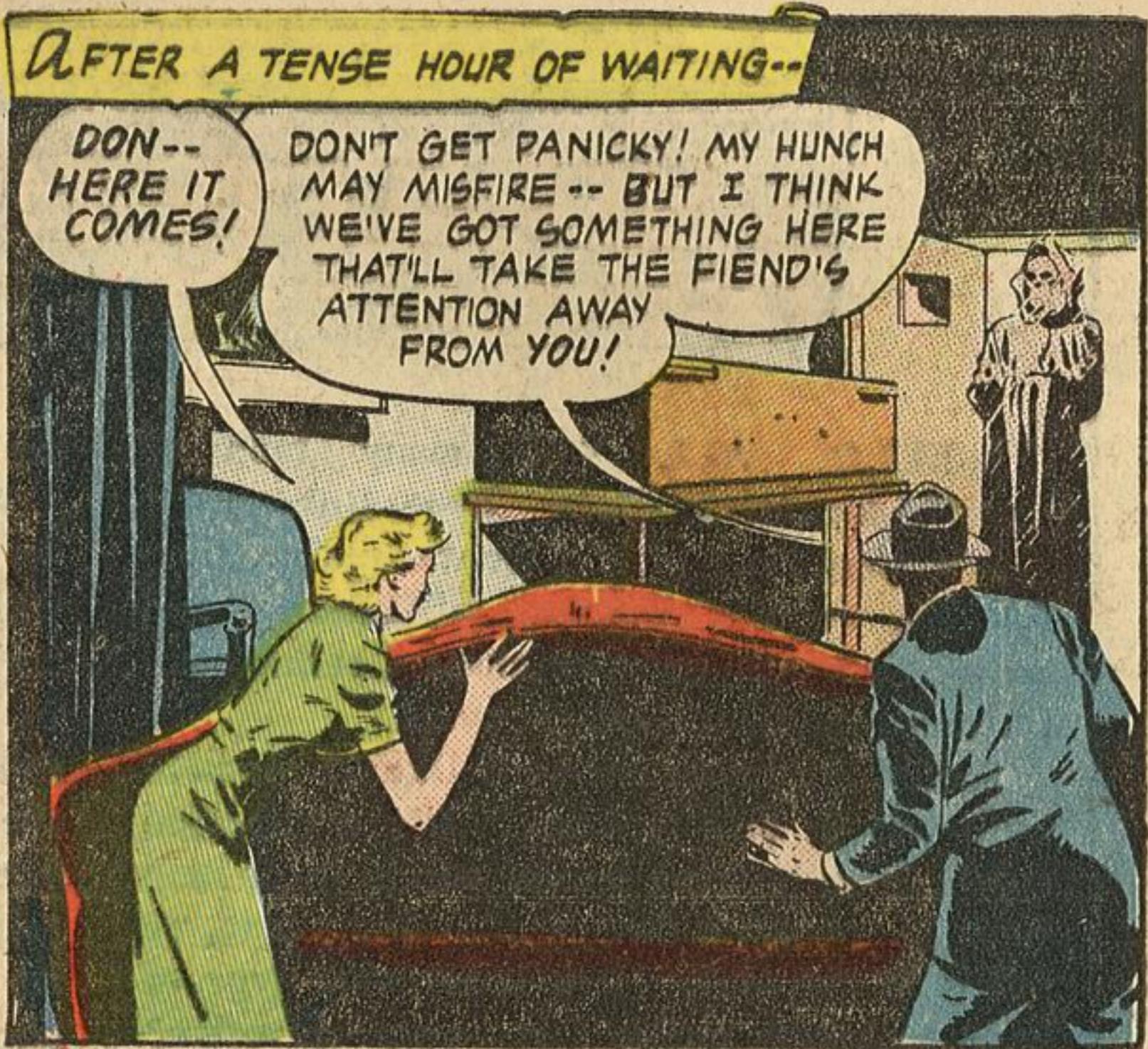
LATER-- WHAT'S NEXT, CHUM? ACCORDING TO THE INSPECTOR.. YOU'RE GIVING THE ORDERS!

JUST WHEEL THAT THING INSIDE-- I'LL DO THE REST!

THANK GOODNESS NOTHING HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE AWAY.. BUT I'M SURE IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF TIME!

SO AM I, HONEY.. AFTER CATCHING A GLIMPSE OF THAT CREEP MYSELF! I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THAT LATER.. RIGHT NOW, THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET READY-- AND I WANT YOU TO BRACE YOURSELF!





EDITOR

LET'S TALK IT OVER!

HELLO, ALL YOU many fans of "Adventures Into The Unknown"!

It's that time of the month again...time for the regular meeting of readers and editor...so pull up your chairs, relax comfortably...and let's talk it over!

Something important we'd like to discuss with you at this meeting. It's a question that's been preying on our minds for a long time, and we've decided, at long last, to put it to the test. Here it is: what type of supernatural thrills is your favorite?

Perhaps many of you will be puzzled by a question of this sort. You may not have realized that there's more than one type of excitement to be gained through reading weird stories. Actually, there are two brands of reaction that you may get. One is the instantaneous and electrifying kind such as you'd receive if, throwing open a closet door, you were to be confronted suddenly with a ghastly phantom. The other is a more subtle variety, wherein a cunning buildup of terror is resorted to...in which a frightening atmosphere is skilfully constructed and mounting tension produces a more subtle type of thrill. Which do you

prefer?

We want very much to know your reaction, for upon it depends the type of stories which we shall bring you. Meanwhile, we've attempted to steer a middle ground, in which both types of thrills are entrancingly mingled. The sudden gasp and the mounting shudder...you'll find them both in the tensely-paced plots of this gripping issue. "Masquerade of Death" is an excellent example of what we mean, packing an admixture of sudden-death chills and building tension. "The Eyes of Doom" is another of this gripping variety, and you'll go all out for it. "Daughter of the Pharaohs" delves into the age-old Unknown for its spine-tingling action...and "The Vampire's Bones" is a thrill-a-second yarn which rounds out a bang-up issue!

Now...won't you write us, telling us what you think of what we're doing? Address your letter to The Editor, "Adventures Into The Unknown", 45 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y. Meanwhile, take a look at what some of our other readers think!

"Dear Editor:-

I've been reading 'Adventures Into The Unknown' ever since it first appeared, and want to say that it's my favorite weird comic. I particularly went for 'When Werewolves Howl', in your July issue, and want to congratulate you on such an interesting story. It's one of the best you've ever printed. Keep up the good work...even my mother reads your comics!

--Carol Stirling, Mineola, N. Y."

"Dear Editor:-

We don't get many American magazines here in London, but I've managed to get hold of 'Adventures Into The Unknown' and think it's wonderful! The story I've liked most so far was 'The Shadow of the Wolf'...but all of them are the best I've ever read!

--Ronald Collins, London, England."

"Dear Editor:-

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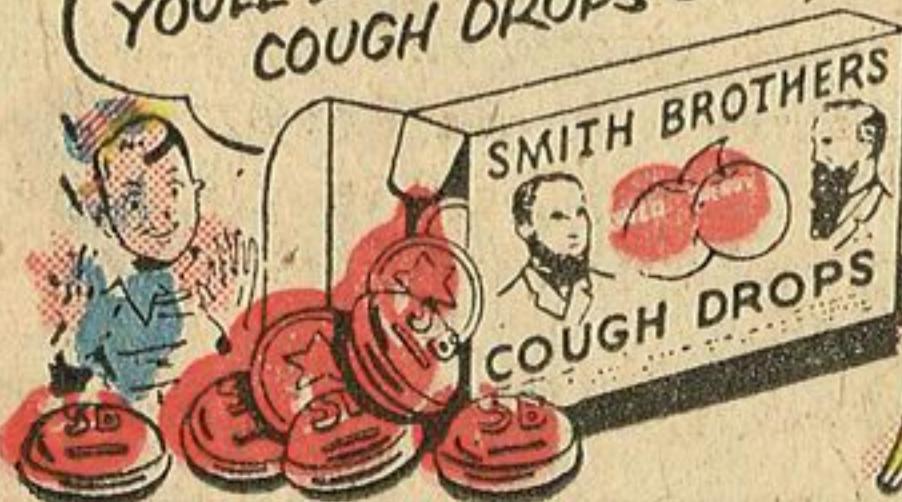
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DAUGHTER OF THE PHARAOHS



A WOMAN OF ANCIENT AND MYSTIC BLOOD OPENS THE PAGES OF A DUSTY, FORBIDDEN VOLUME, AND OUT OF THE MISTS OF TIME STEPS AKHZAR, GREAT EVIL GOD OF ANCIENT EGYPT-- CALLED FORTH TO RECONQUER THE WORLD BY A DAUGHTER OF THE PHARAOHS!

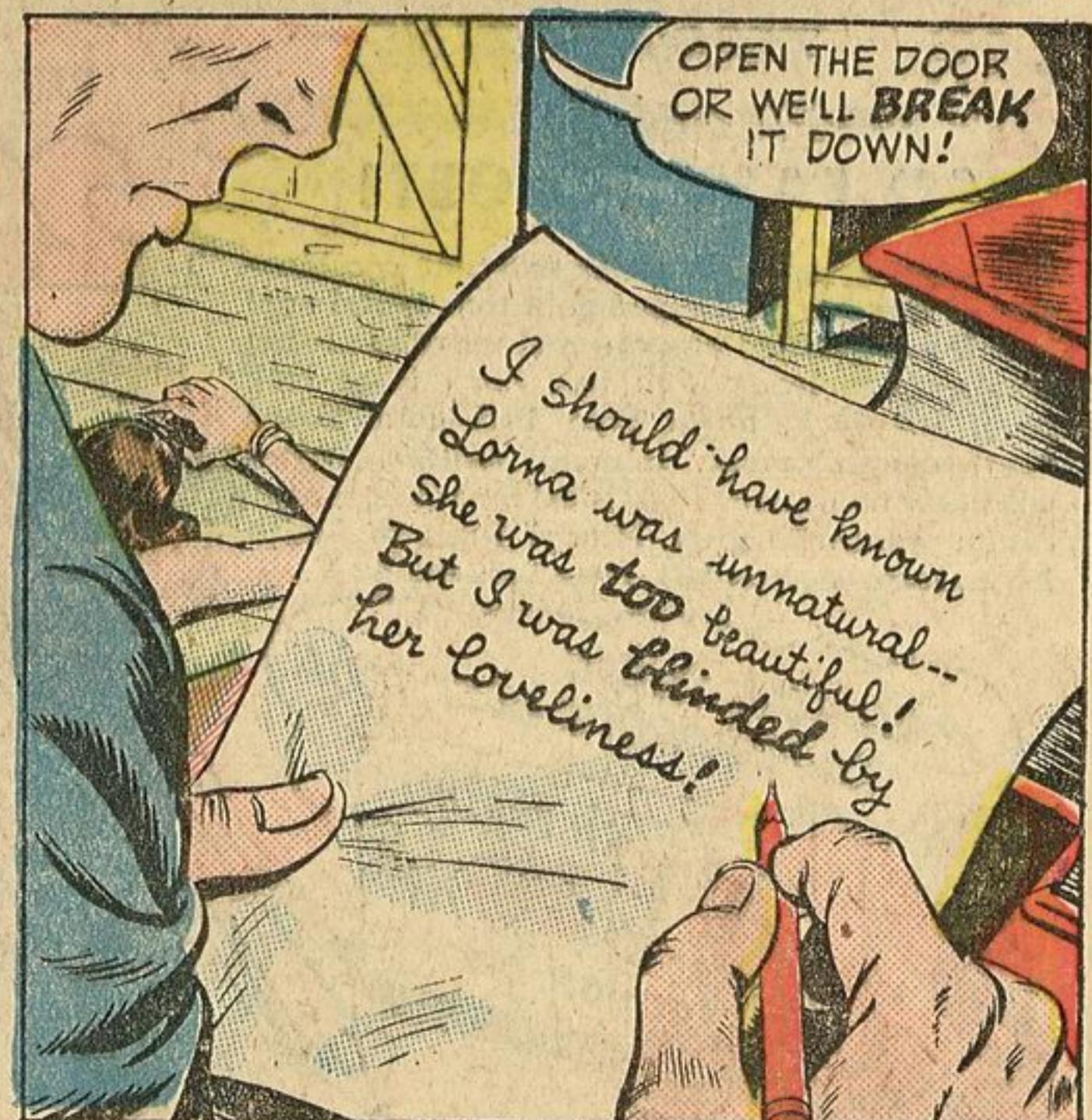
IN A DUSTY ATTIC, A MAN SITS WRITING! FROM OUTSIDE COMES A LOUD KNOCKING, EXCITED VOICES --

I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME TO LIVE, BUT BEFORE I GO--
THE WORLD MUST KNOW MY STORY! IT BEGAN
THE DAY I MET
LORNA FARO...

OPEN THIS DOOR!
OPEN IN THE
NAME OF THE
LAW!

BAM!
BAM!

OPEN THE DOOR
OR WE'LL BREAK
IT DOWN!



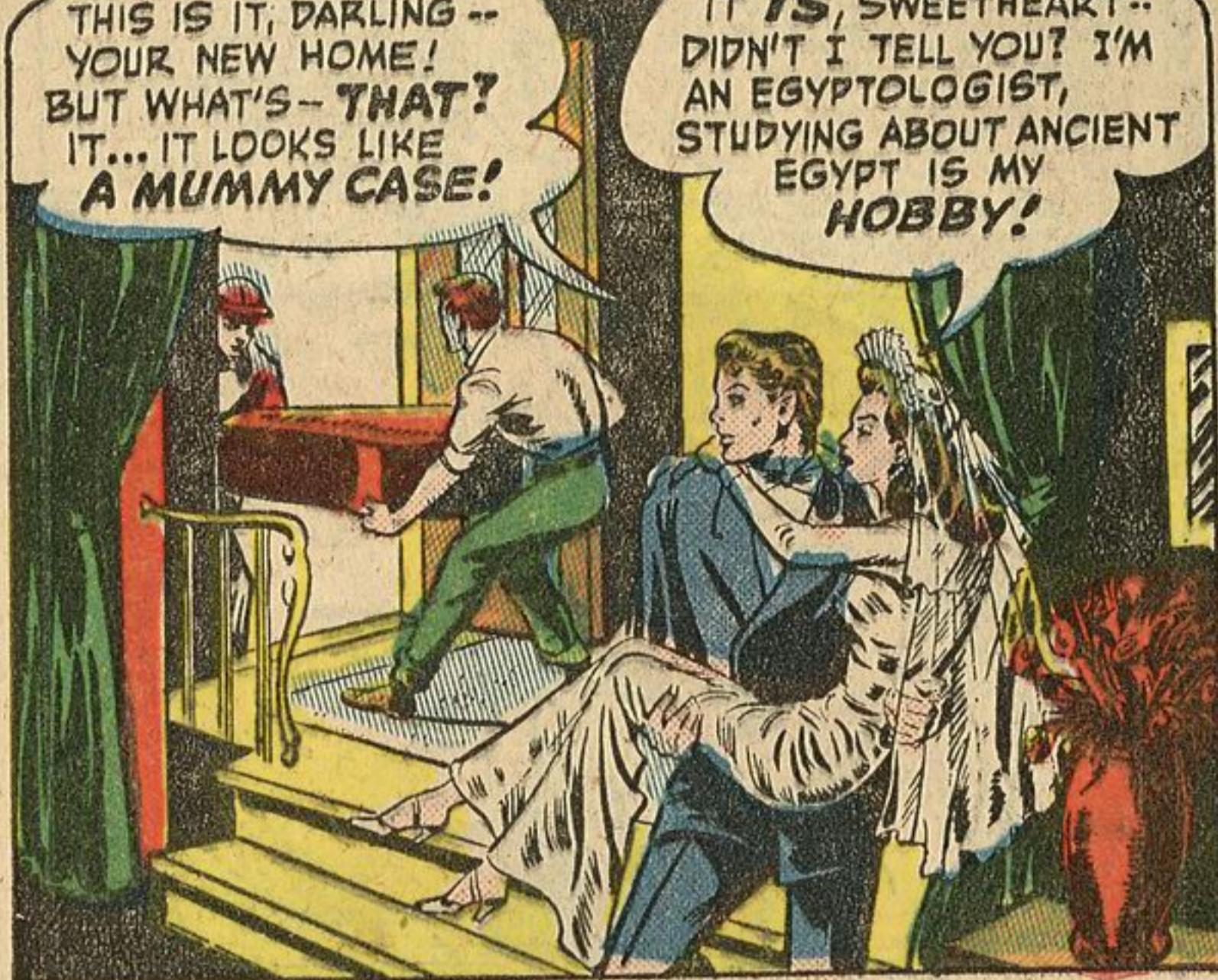
"WE WERE MARRIED! MY FIRST HINT OF THE STRANGE EVENTS THAT WERE TO FOLLOW CAME THE DAY WE MOVED INTO THIS HOUSE ---"

THIS IS IT, DARLING -- YOUR NEW HOME! BUT WHAT'S -- THAT? IT... IT LOOKS LIKE A MUMMY CASE!

IT IS, SWEETHEART.. DIDN'T I TELL YOU? I'M AN EGYPTOLOGIST, STUDYING ABOUT ANCIENT EGYPT IS MY HOBBY!

BY THE WAY, PAUL, IS THERE A PLACE I COULD FIX UP AS A SORT OF STUDY, TO KEEP MY BOOKS AND ---?

WELL, THERE'S THE ATTIC! HOW ABOUT THAT?



"AFTER WE'D ARRANGED THE DUSTY ATTIC AS A DEN FOR LORNA ---"

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN ME, DARLING? LET ME TEACH YOU WHAT I KNOW OF THE MYSTERIES OF EGYPT! THERE'S .. MORE TO IT THAN YOU THINK!

NO THANKS.. NOT FOR ME! BUT YOU GO RIGHT AHEAD, DARLING!



"BUT LORNA SPENT HOURS THERE -- NIGHT AND DAY! FINALLY, MY CURIOSITY GOT THE BETTER OF ME! ONE NIGHT, AS I CLIMBED THE STAIRS ---"

WHY, THAT'S LORNA! SHE MUST BE SPEAKING EGYPTIAN! AND THAT STRANGE SCENT---



"AS I BURST INTO THE ROOM, I SAW A GHASTLY SHAPE HOVER NEAR THE CEILING! THEN --"

LORNA, WHAT THE --?

AZGAAFF!



WHATEVER'S GOING ON -- I DON'T LIKE IT! PAUL! HOW DARE YOU TEAR THAT PAPYRUS? IT'S PRICELESS!

AAAAAAA!



NEVER MIND ABOUT THAT! I SAW SOMETHING IN THIS ROOM, LORNA -- AND HEARD IT AS I TORE THE PAPER! IT WAS-- EVIL! AND THAT STRANGE SCENT, LIKE THE SMELL OF AN ANCIENT TOMB--!

WHAT IF THERE WAS? MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, OR ELSE--

"FOR A MOMENT, HER ANGER WAS SAVAGE, FLASHING! THEN, SUDDENLY, SHE WAS HER CHARMING SELF AGAIN--"

I...I'M SORRY, PAUL, BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M ON THE VERGE OF LEARNING SOMETHING TREMENDOUS, GAINING UNTOLD POWERS! WHY DON'T YOU HELP ME? TOGETHER WE COULD...

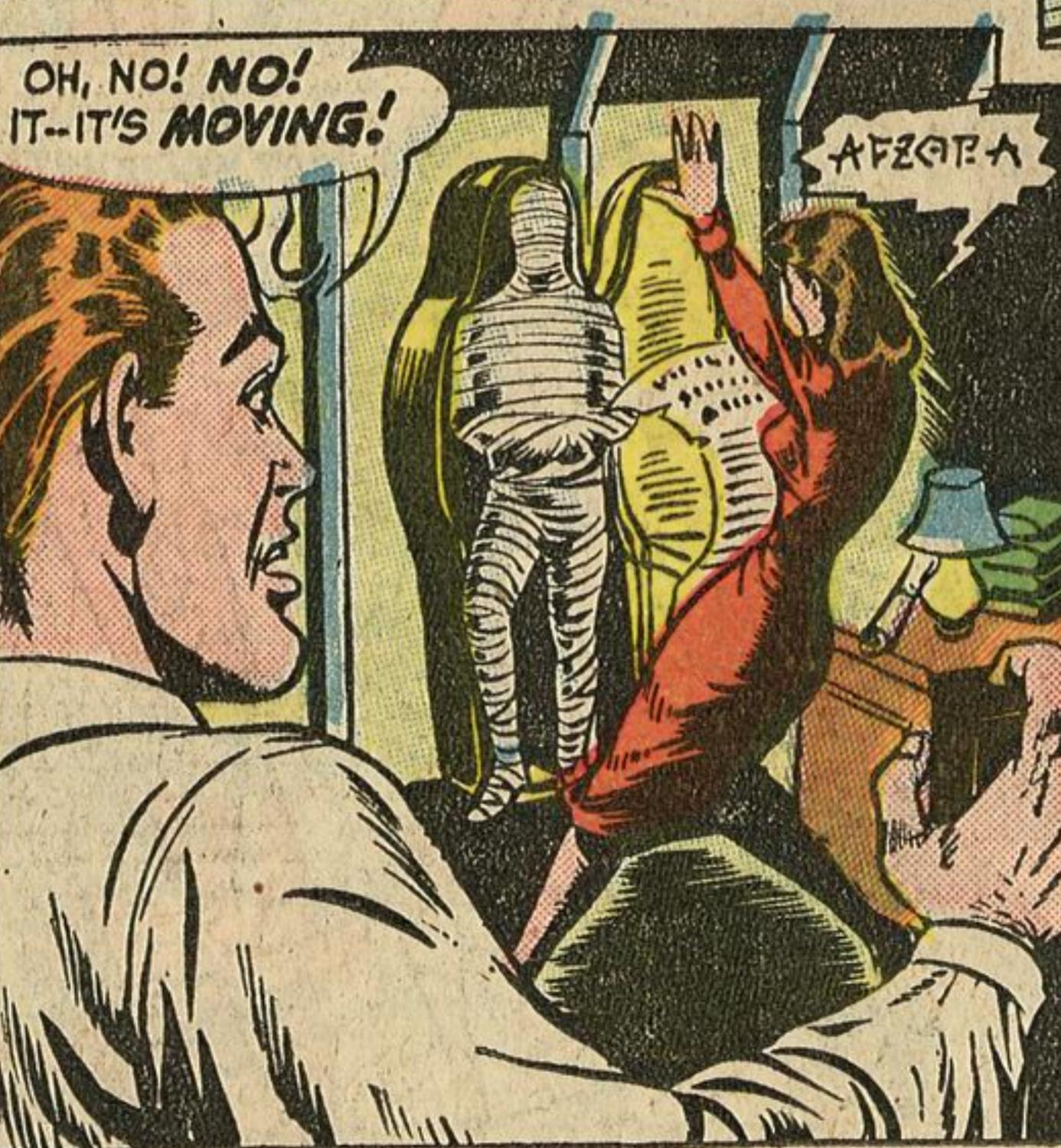
NO, LORNA! THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG, SOMETHING DANGEROUS ABOUT ALL THIS! I INSIST THAT YOU GIVE IT UP!



"LORNA KEPT HER PROMISE --BUT NOT FOR LONG! ONLY A WEEK LATER--"

THERE IT IS AGAIN--THAT STRANGE SOUND! I'M PUTTING A STOP TO THIS FOR GOOD!

LORNA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU PROMISED --- YE GODS! I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A REAL MUMMY IN THAT CASE! I THOUGHT---



THERE! I'VE TORN THE PAPER TO SHREDS! AND NOW YOUR MUMMY IS GONE! NOTHING BUT -DUST!

I DON'T CARE! I'VE LEARNED THE FIRST TWO STEPS! I'VE CALLED FORTH THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD-- I'VE DONE IT!

NOW I'M READY TO CALL FORTH AKHZAR, THE GREAT DRAGON-HEADED GOD OF THE NILE! AND WITH HIM TO DO MY BIDDING, I SHALL RULE THE WORLD!

YOU'RE CRAZY, LORNA! WHY, EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, YOU WOULDN'T DARE DO SUCH A THING!

WHY NOT? HE RULED THE WORLD ONCE! AKHZAR AND HIS FRIENDS ARE ONLY SLEEPING--SLEEPING THROUGH THE CENTURIES UNTIL THEIR TIME COMES AGAIN!

LORNA, EVEN I KNOW THAT AKHZAR WAS THE MOST EVIL OF ALL THE EGYPTIAN GODS! IF HE LIVES AGAIN, THE WORLD WOULD BE ENSLAVED!

OF COURSE IT WOULD--AND I ITS QUEEN! YOU FOOL, WHY DO YOU THINK I CAN UNLOCK THE MYSTERIES IN THOSE BOOKS? BECAUSE I AM A QUEEN! THE BLOOD OF THE MIGHTY PHARAOHS OF EGYPT FLOWS IN MY VEINS!

"SUDDENLY, LOOKING AT LORNA IN ALL HER MYSTIC, SAVAGE BEAUTY, I KNEW IT WAS TRUE! SHE WAS INDEED A DAUGHTER OF THE PHARAOHS! AND I HAD SEEN THE PROOF THAT SHE COULD ACTUALLY PERFORM FANTASTIC RITES! PERHAPS SHE COULD ALSO CALL FORTH--AKHZAR!"

LOOK, PAUL! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TO DRAW THIS ANCIENT SYMBOL ON THE FLOOR!

NO, LORNA--I FORBID IT! I'M GOING TO LOCK THE DOOR TO THIS PLACE, SO THAT YOU CAN NEVER AGAIN---

"I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE REPORTED WHAT I HAD LEARNED TO THE POLICE! BUT I LOVED LORNA -- TOO MUCH!"

YOU FORBID IT? YOU IDIOT! DO YOU THINK A PITIFUL MORTAL LIKE YOU CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF AKHZAR--OR A DAUGHTER OF THE PHARAOHS? HA-HA-HA!

HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

"I DECIDED TO SELL THE HOUSE! PERHAPS, IF WE MOVED TO THE CITY, LORNA COULD FIND OTHER INTERESTS! BUT ONE NIGHT, AS I TALKED TO A PROSPECTIVE BUYER ---"

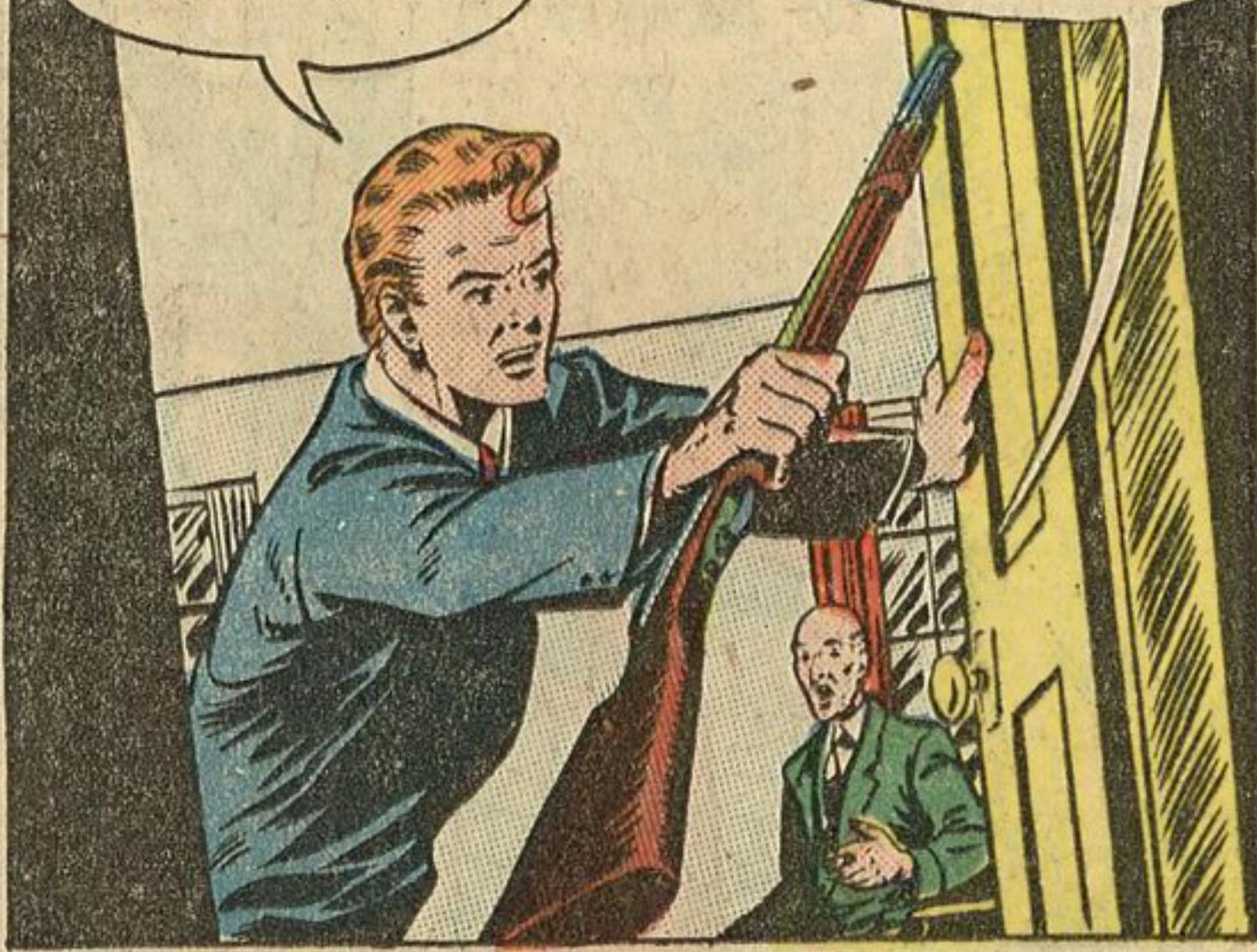
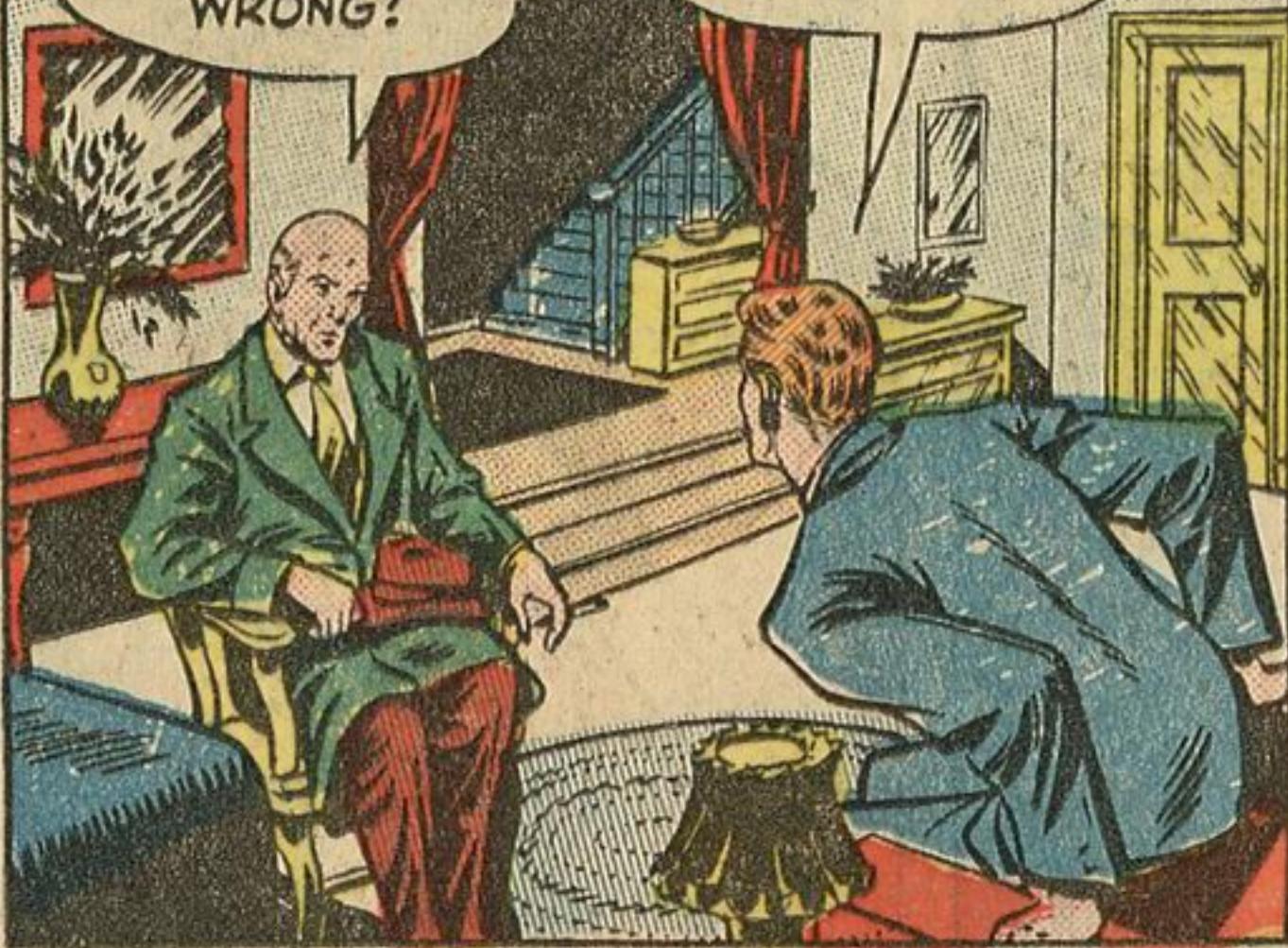
NOW, ABOUT THE PRICE --- I SAY, IS SOMETHING WRONG?

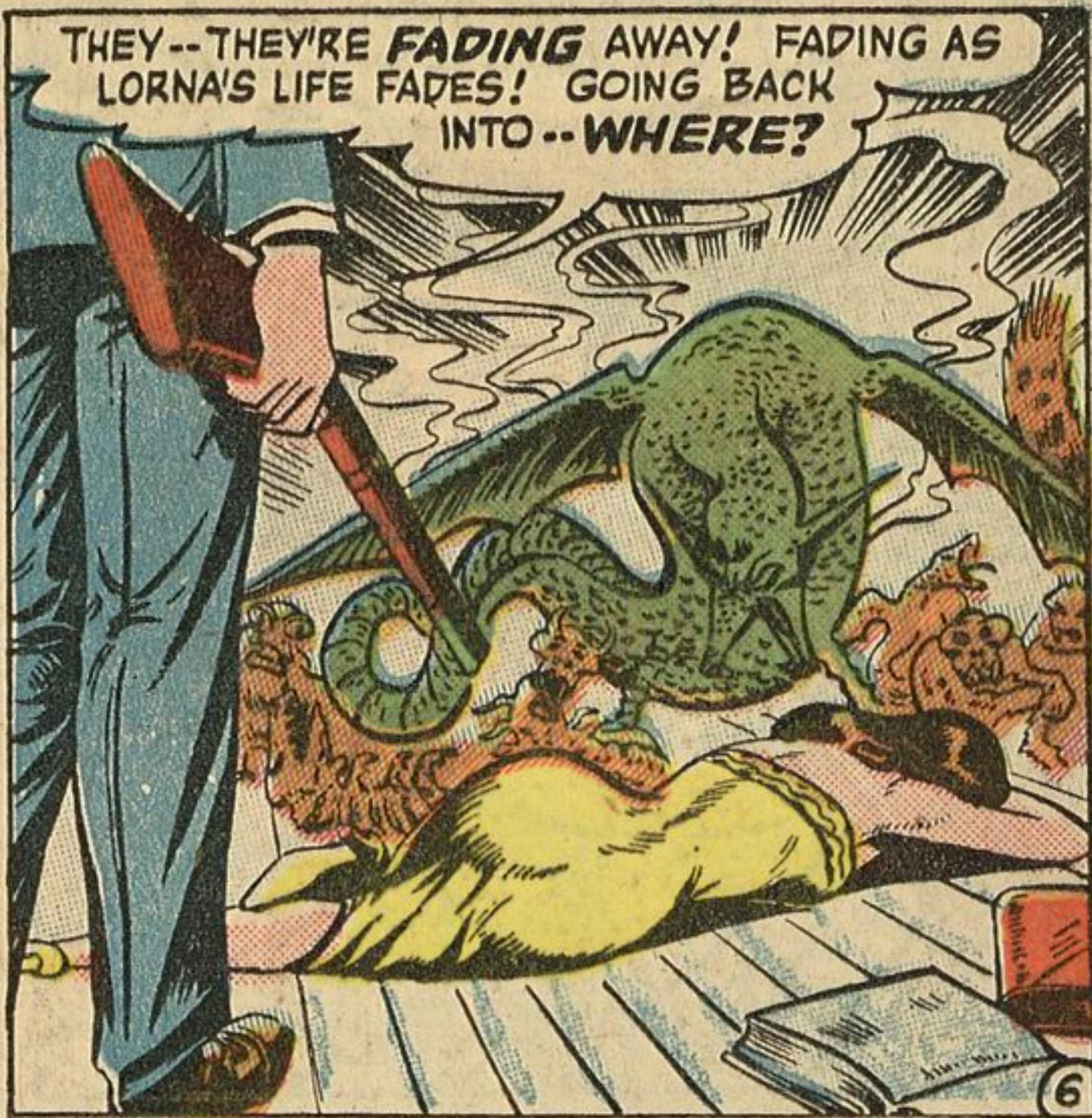
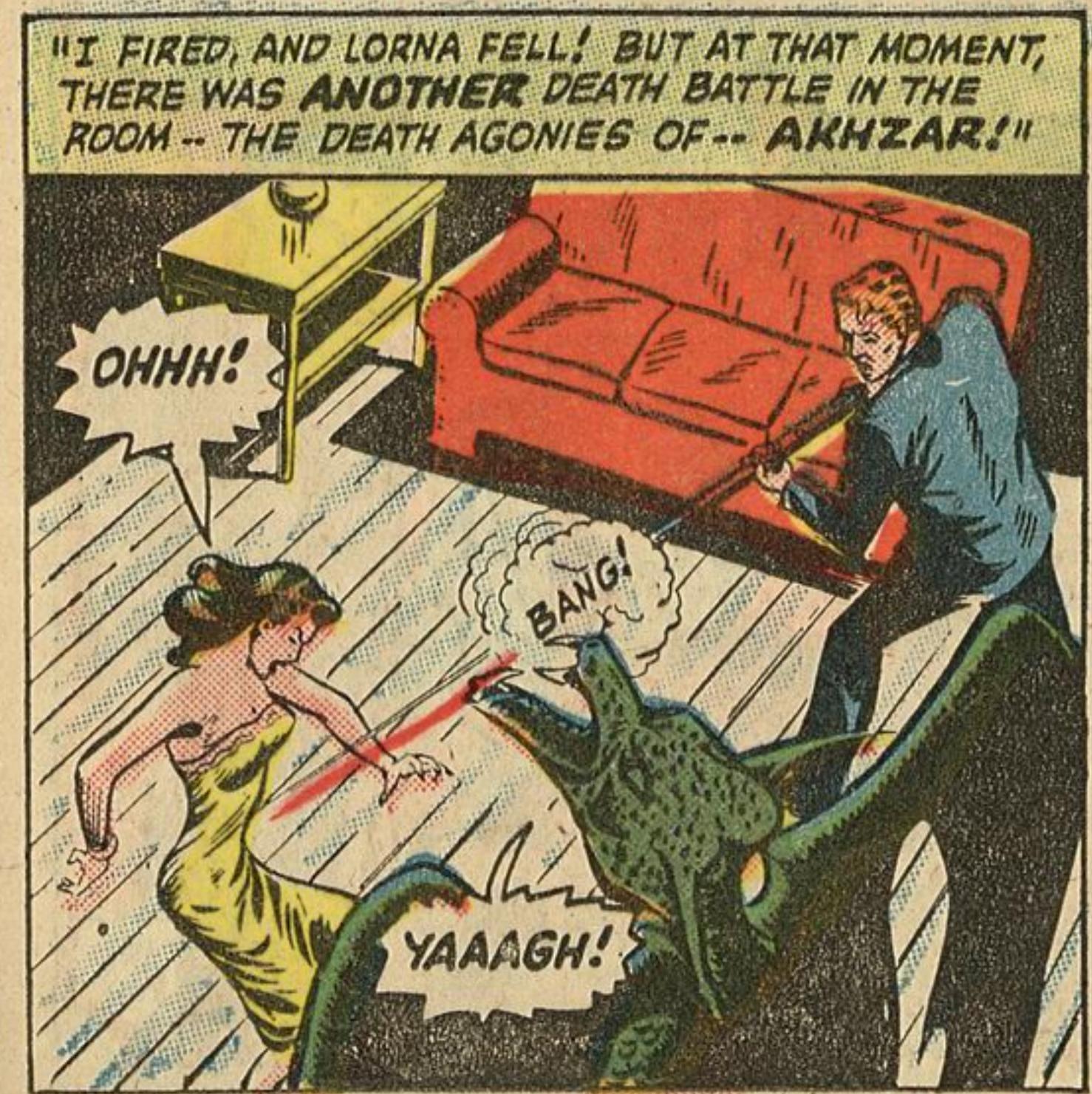
THAT --- SOUND!
MY WIFE -- SHE'S AT IT AGAIN!

"I HAD BEEN KEEPING A RIFLE NEAR ME THE PAST FEW DAYS! FURIOUS, I SNATCHED IT UP! THEN--"

I TOLD HER NEVER
TO DO IT AGAIN!
I WARNED HER!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT'S --- OH!
A RIFLE!





"AND SO MY STORY ENDS! I HAD TO KILL WHAT I LOVED BEST, SO THAT OTHERS MIGHT SURVIVE! LET IT BE A WARNING TO THE WORLD! AKHZAR MAY RETURN AGAIN ---"

YOU ASKED FOR IT, MISTER, WE'RE BUSTING IN!

BAM! BAM!

BUT, AS THE POLICE BROKE IN --

TOO LATE, JOE! HE DIDN'T WAIT TO BE TAKEN ALIVE!

YEAH! AND LOOK!



HE KILLED HIS WIFE, TOO!

HEY, HE LEFT A NOTE! HERE, I'LL READ IT OUT LOUD!



MOMENTS LATER --

"--AKHZAR MAY RETURN AGAIN, FOR SOMEWHERE THERE MAY BE ANOTHER DAUGHTER OF THE PHARAOS!"

HEY, THIS GUY WAS TOO NUTS! HIS WIFE WAS REAL PRETTY!

GENTLEMEN, LOOK! THERE IS A MUMMY CASE--AND A PILE OF DUST IN FRONT OF IT!



CUT IT OUT, MISTER! YOU WANT US TO START BELIEVING IN SPOOKS?

HEY, CHARLIE! LOOK AT THIS!



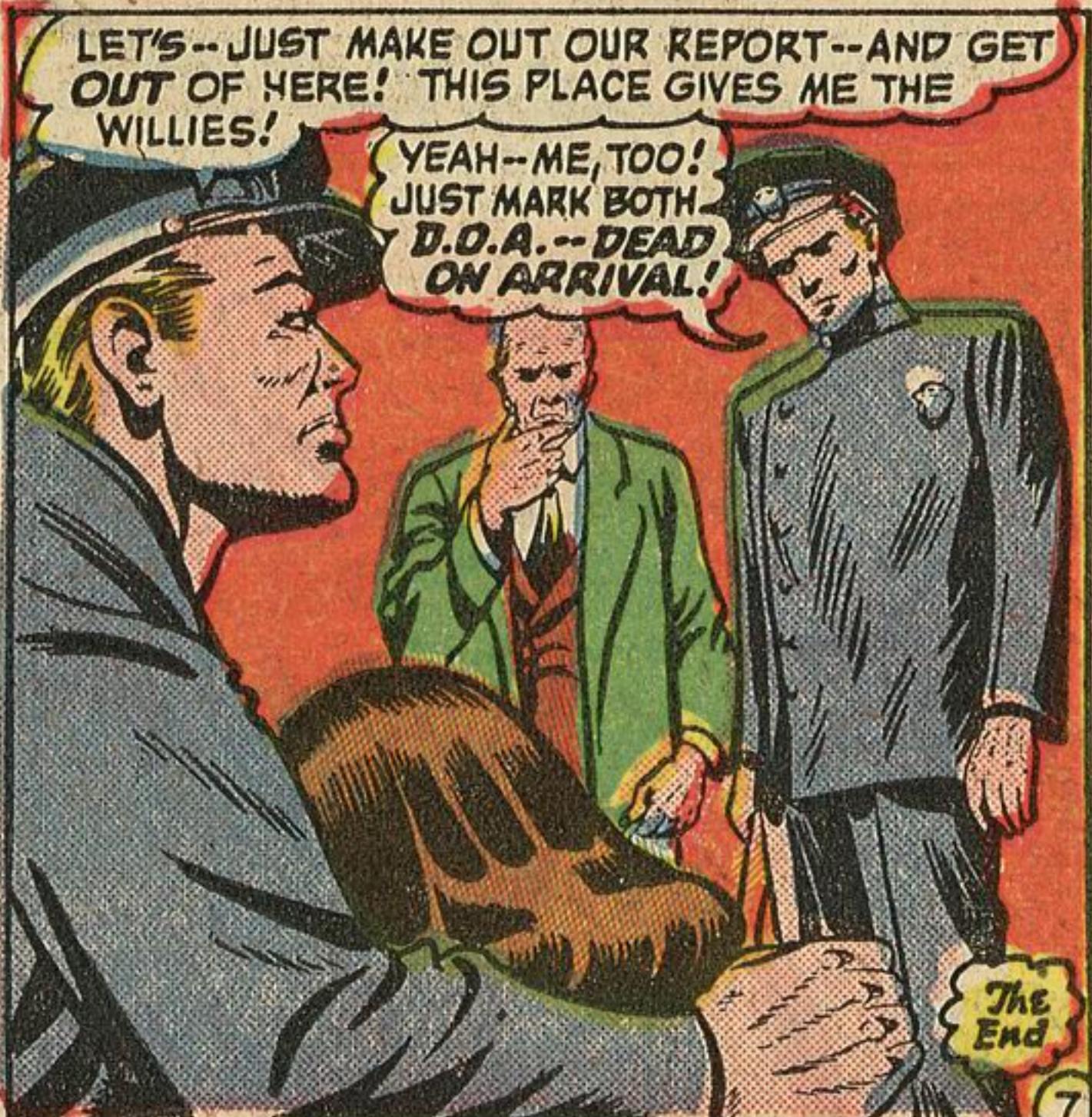
THE SACRED SYMBOL! YOU THINK ... ?

I -- I DON'T WANT TO THINK!



LET'S -- JUST MAKE OUT OUR REPORT -- AND GET OUT OF HERE! THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE WILLIES!

YEAH - ME, TOO! JUST MARK BOTH D.O.A. -- DEAD ON ARRIVAL!



STRANGE ENOUGH TO FIND A BEAUTIFUL FIGURE LYING DEEP INSIDE A LONELY CAVE -- AND HORRIBLE ENOUGH TO HEAR A VOICE CROON IN DELIGHT OVER DRIPPING BLOOD! BUT THESE ARE PORTENTS OF THE TERROR TO COME--WHEN JAGGED WINGS BEAT THE MURKY DEPTHS THAT HOLD...

The VAMPIRE'S BONES!



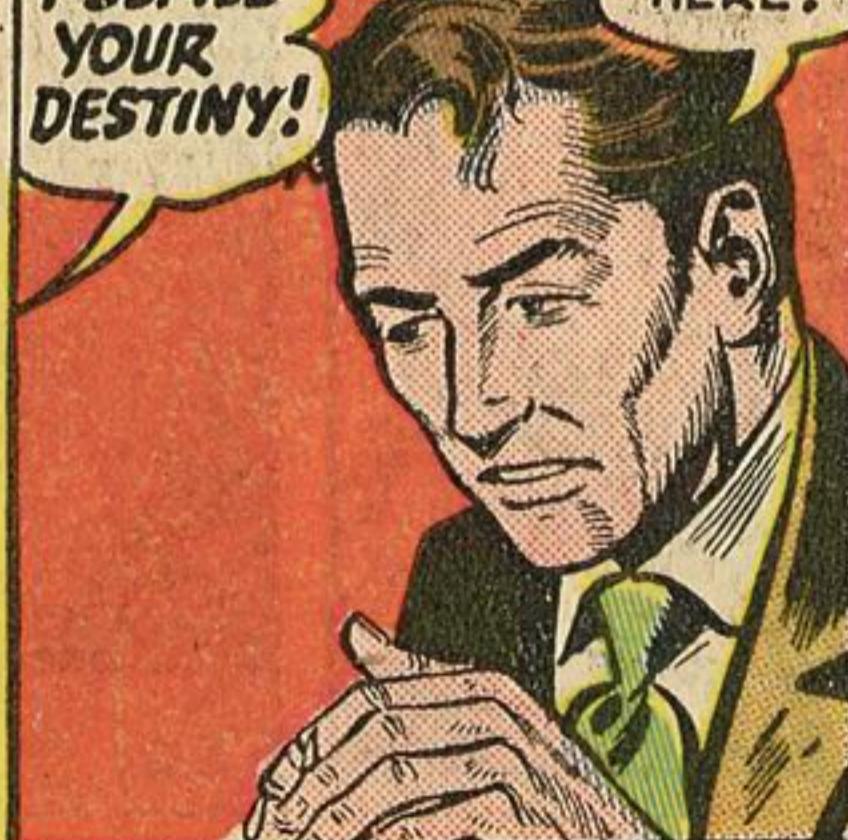
THIS CLIFF ISN'T HIGH ENOUGH TO BE EXCITING -- BUT ANY WAY, IT'S CLOSE TO TOWN -- AND KEEPS ME IN FORM FOR REAL MOUNTAIN CLIMBING!

GARY OWENS BARELY FEELS THE SHARP FLINT EDGE THAT GASHES HIS HAND--BUT IN THE NEXT SECOND..

BLOOD--BLOOD!
IT HAS FALLEN
ON YOUR BONES,
BELOVED--NOW
I CAN RISE AND
FULFILL
YOUR
DESTINY!

MY GOSH!
THAT CAN'T
BE A
VOICE--
NO ONE'S
NEAR
HERE!

WAIT A MINUTE... A FEW DROPS OF MY BLOOD MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO THIS CRACK IN THE ROCK --AND THAT'S WHERE THE VOICE IS COMING FROM-- SOMEWHERE BELOW! THAT MEANS A CAVE--AND I'VE GOT TO FIND IT'S ENTRANCE!



IT WAS A STRANGE, OMINOUS CAVERN
THAT GARY FOUND--

HOLY MACKEREL -- THERE'S A STRANGE
GLOW RISING FROM THAT CLEFT! AND
IF THAT SLIT OF LIGHT UP THERE MEANS
ANYTHING -- IT'S DIRECTLY BELOW
THE CRACK IN THE ROCK--THE ONE
INTO WHICH
THOSE DROPS
OF BLOOD
FELL!



HOLY SMOKE -- I DIDN'T
IMAGINE THAT VOICE
TALKING ABOUT BLOOD
FALLING ON BONES!
THERE'S A SKELETON
SPRAWLED FIVE FEET
BELOW WITH A GLINTING
OBJECT JUST UNDER
THE RIBS!



FOR A CHILLING SECOND, GARY
REACHES DOWN, HIS FINGERS
GROPING -- AND THEN --

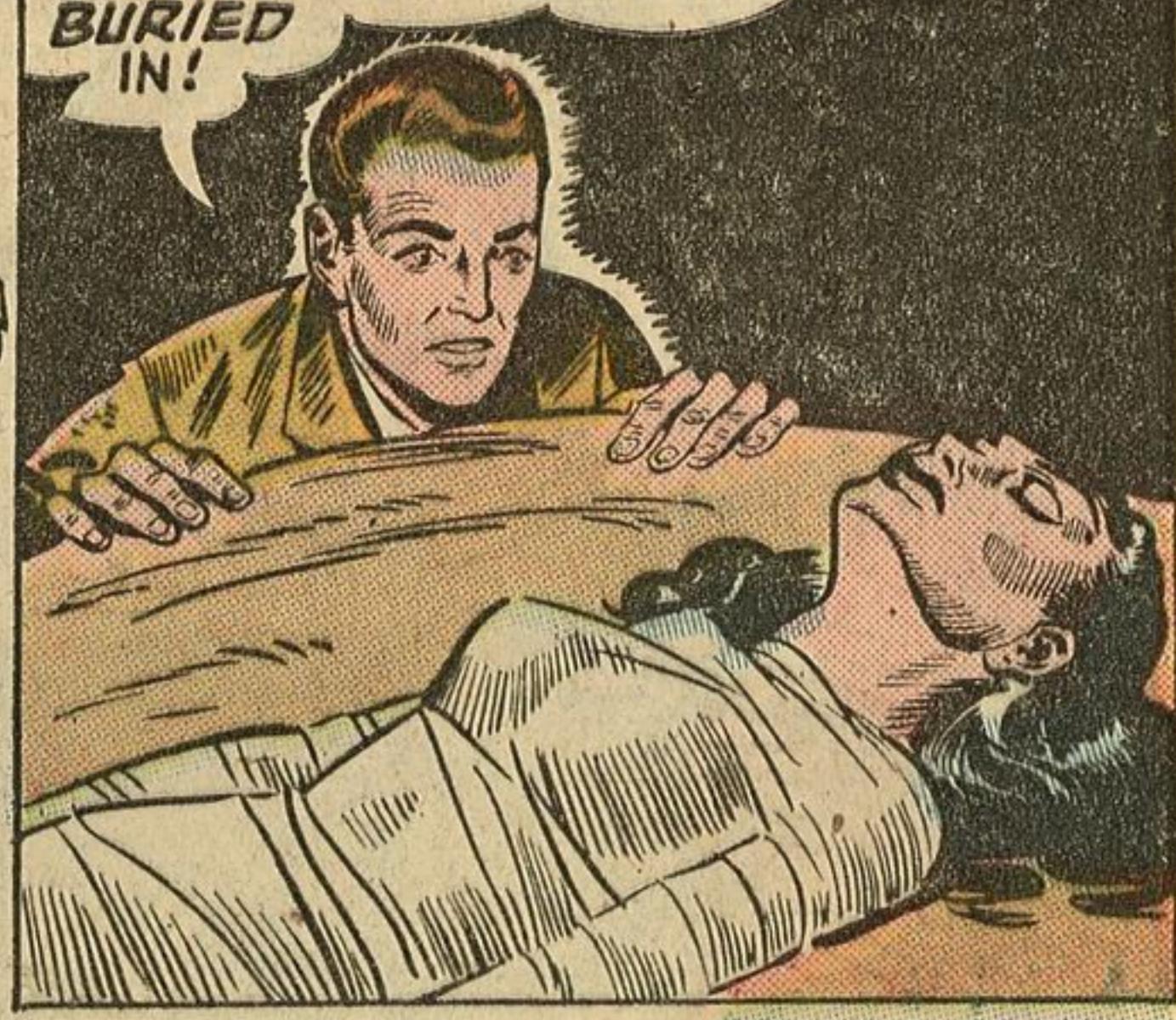
MY GOSH, IT'S SOME KIND OF
GEM -- A GREEN STONE WITH
SCARLET STREAKS!



THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT
SKELETON -- BUT WHAT I'M INTERESTED IN
NOW IS THE VOICE! HOW COULD IT SPEAK
TO BONES THAT HAVE BEEN LYING HERE FOR
CENTURIES -- AND COME FROM ANYTHING
ALIVE? WAIT -- THAT SOUND OF HEAVY
BREATHING -- SOMETHING'S UP ON
THAT LEDGE!



GOOD LORD! SHE MAY BE BREATHING NOW
--BUT THAT ANCIENT WINDING SHEET IS
WHAT PEOPLE USED TO BE
BURIED
IN!



SUDDENLY -- STARING FROM THE WAXEN
FEATURES IN SILENT MOCKERY --

SHE'S OPENED HER EYES! I DON'T
KNOW WHAT THAT GLANCE MEANS -- BUT
IT HOLDS SOMETHING
REPULSIVE AND
EVIL!



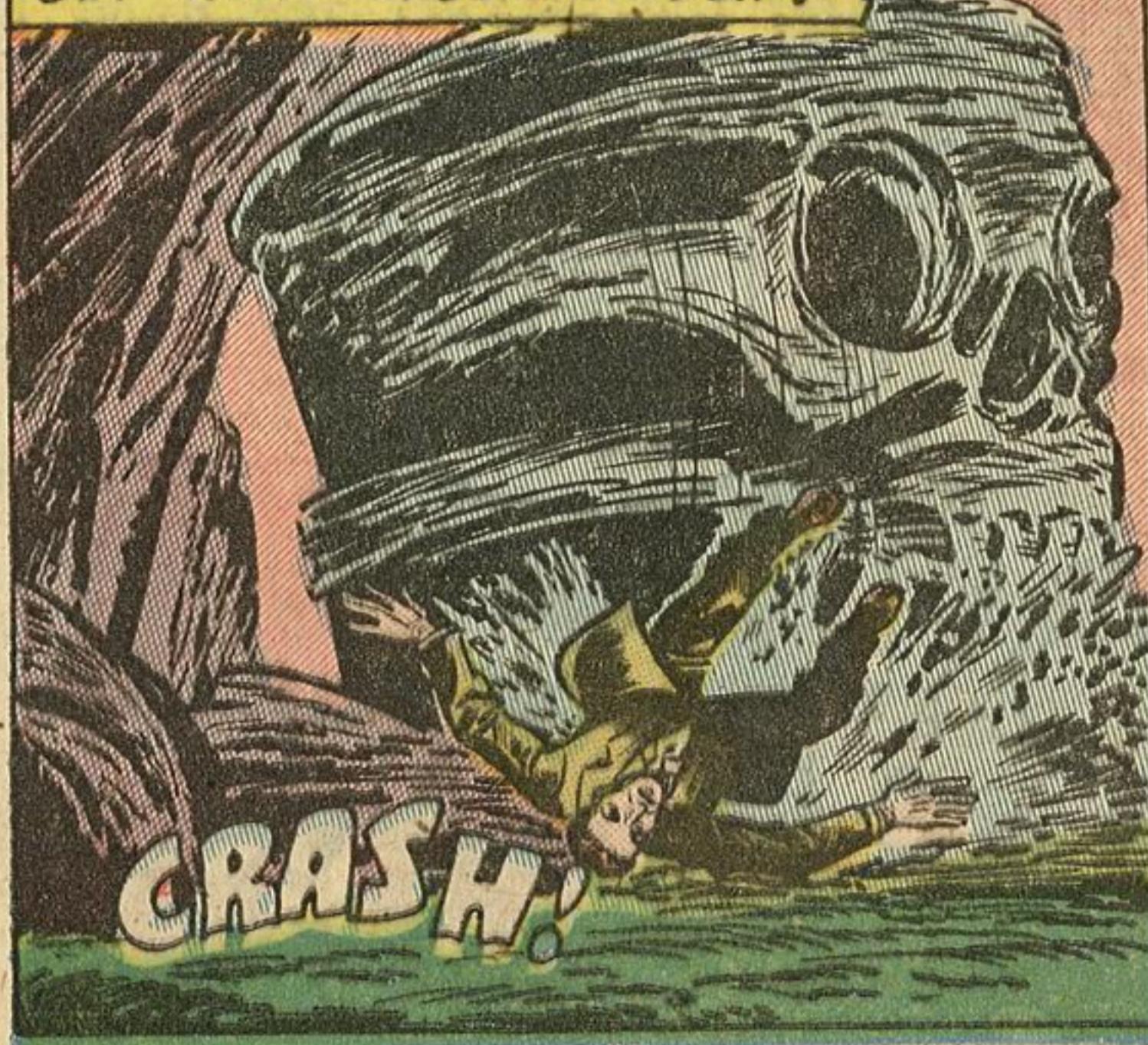
AS THE PALE LIPS MOVE --

BLOOD HAS RELEASED
ME -- BLOOD SHALL
SUSTAIN ME --
FOREVER!

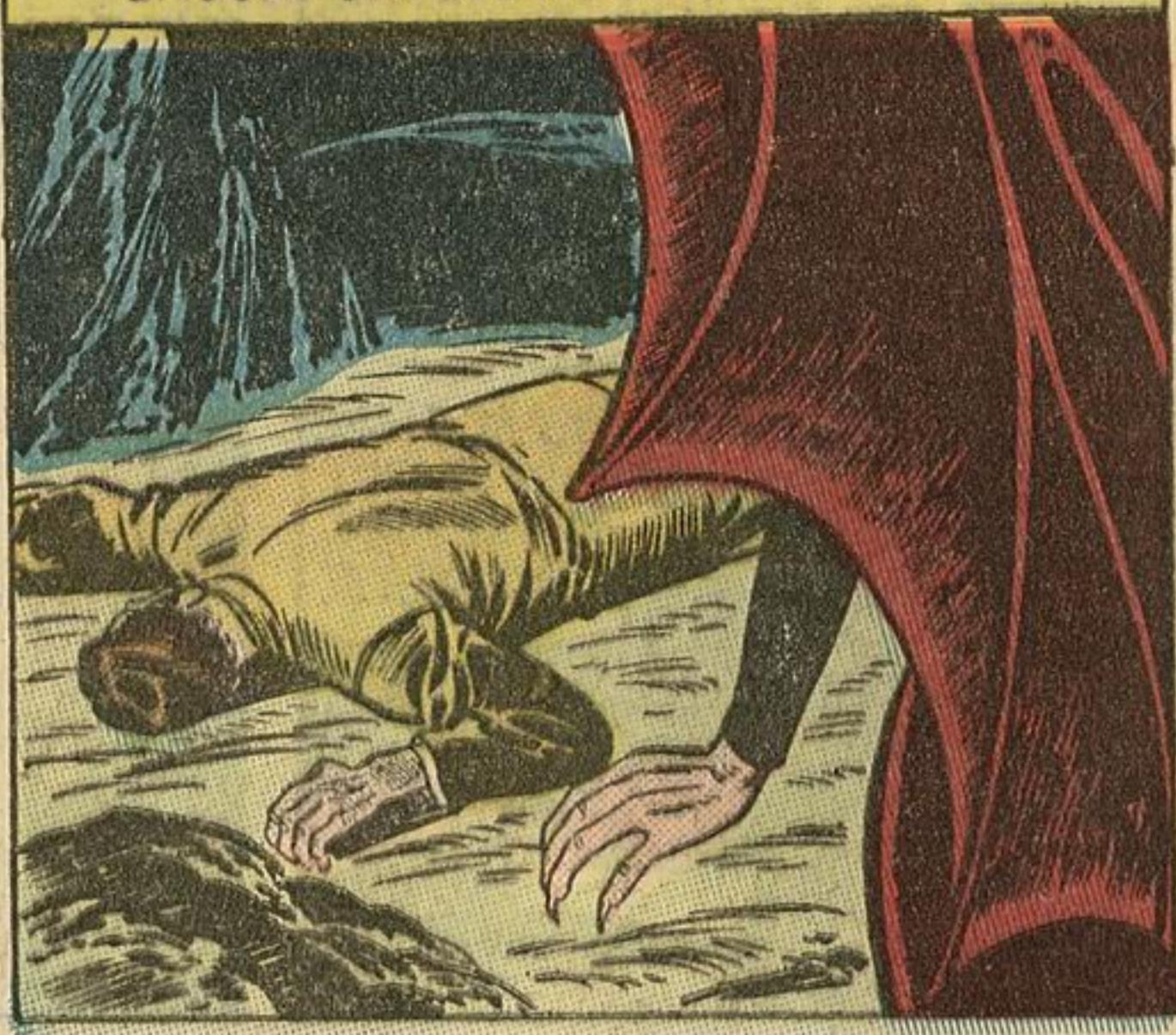
NOW
I KNOW WHAT
SPOKE! I'VE
HEARD AND SEEN
ENOUGH -- I'M
GETTING OUT
OF HERE!



BUT THEN -- A SUDDEN SLIP!

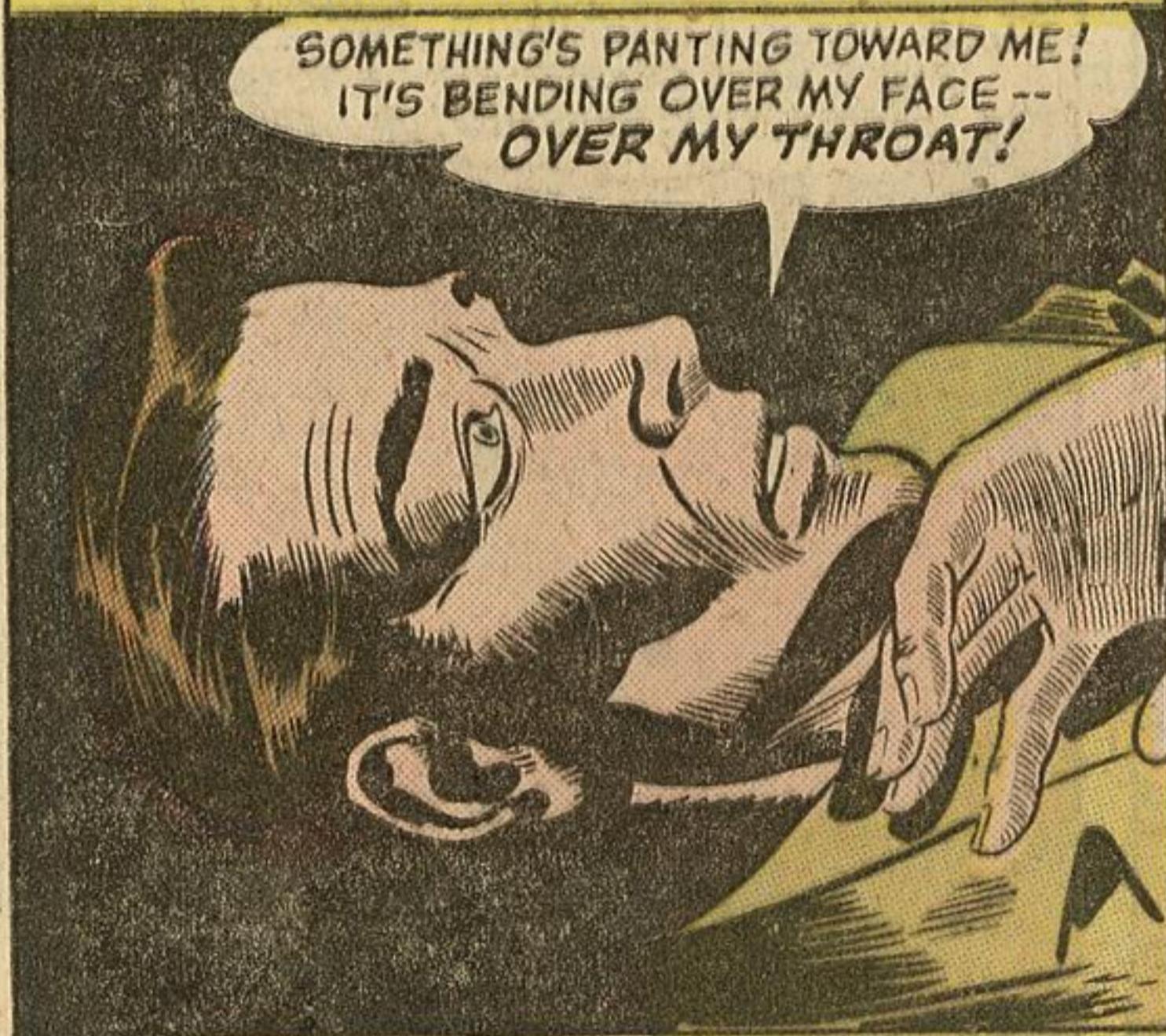


STUNNED, GARY LIES MOTIONLESS -- DIMLY HEARING AN EERIE RUSTLE ABOVE HIM -- BUT UNAWARE OF SOMETHING BLACK AND JAGGED UNFOLDING IN THE GLOOM!



WITH THE NUMBED AWARENESS OF A NIGHTMARE --

SOMETHING'S PANTING TOWARD ME!
IT'S BENDING OVER MY FACE --
OVER MY THROAT!



MINUTES LATER --

I FEEL ROCKY -- AND IT CAN'T BE JUST
THE RESULT OF THAT FALL! MAYBE I
OUGHT TO GET
OUT OF HERE --
BUT I CAN'T
LEAVE UNTIL I'VE
LEARNED THE
TRUTH!



HER FACE WAS PALE JUST A
SHORT TIME WHILE AGO -- AND
NOW IT HAS THE FLUSH OF A
CREATURE THAT'S ALIVE -- A
CREATURE
WITH
BLOOD!



WITH A FURY ROOTED IN
STARK TERROR --

WHOSE BLOOD? WHAT
KIND OF DEMON
ARE YOU?



HA-HA-HA! WITH TWO SMALL
FANG MARKS ON YOUR THROAT,
HOW CAN
YOU HAVE
ANY
DOUBT?
WHAT--? THOSE
ARE WINGS-- THE
WINGS OF A
VAMPIRE!



YES--I'M A FIEND WHOSE RETURN TO LIFE HAS BEEN GAINED THROUGH YOU! YOU COULD HAVE GUESSED THE TRUTH IN TIME TO SAVE YOURSELF--IF ONLY YOU HAD EXAMINED THOSE BONES MORE CLOSELY!



GREAT GUNS! THEY'VE GOT SKELETON WINGS!

HE WAS THE CREATURE I LOVED--A CREATURE LIKE ME! A CURSED DAY FELL WHEN HE WAS SLAIN--DOOMING ME TO REMAIN HERE IN A TRANCE--UNTIL HUMAN BLOOD WAS SHED UPON HIS BONES!

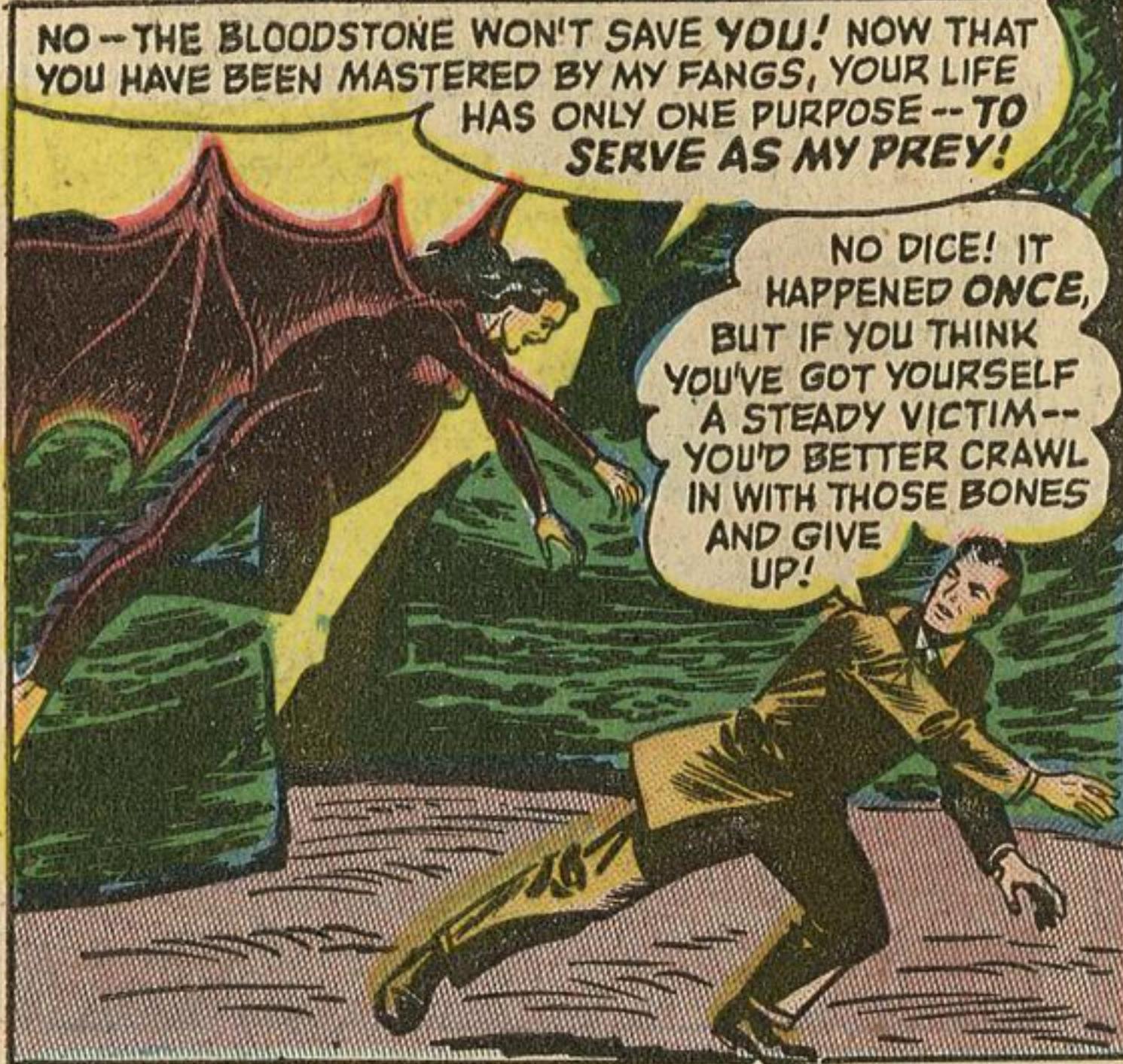


A CREATURE LIKE YOU, EH? BUT IF HE WAS FINISHED OFF, WHAT'S THIS BUNK ABOUT YOUR LIVING FOREVER--SUPPOSE YOU'RE KILLED THE SAME WAY?

NEVER! HE WAS TRICKED INTO SWALLOWING THE THING YOU FOUND--A CHARM THAT CAN SEAR A VAMPIRE'S BODY WITH DEADLY FIRE--A BLOOD-STONE! BUT I WILL NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE!



NO--THE BLOODSTONE WON'T SAVE YOU! NOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN MASTERED BY MY FANGS, YOUR LIFE HAS ONLY ONE PURPOSE--TO SERVE AS MY PREY!



NO DICE! IT HAPPENED ONCE, BUT IF YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A STEADY VICTIM--YOU'D BETTER CRAWL IN WITH THOSE BONES AND GIVE UP!

THEN--BORNE ON THE BLACK PINIONS OF DOOM--

I HAVE WAITED A LONG WHILE--AND I HAVE CRAVED TOO KEENLY TO BE SPURNED!



I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THAT FLUTTERING CREEP!

SHE'S NOT PURSUING! MAYBE EVERYTHING'S OKAY--NOW THAT I'M OUT OF THE CAVE!

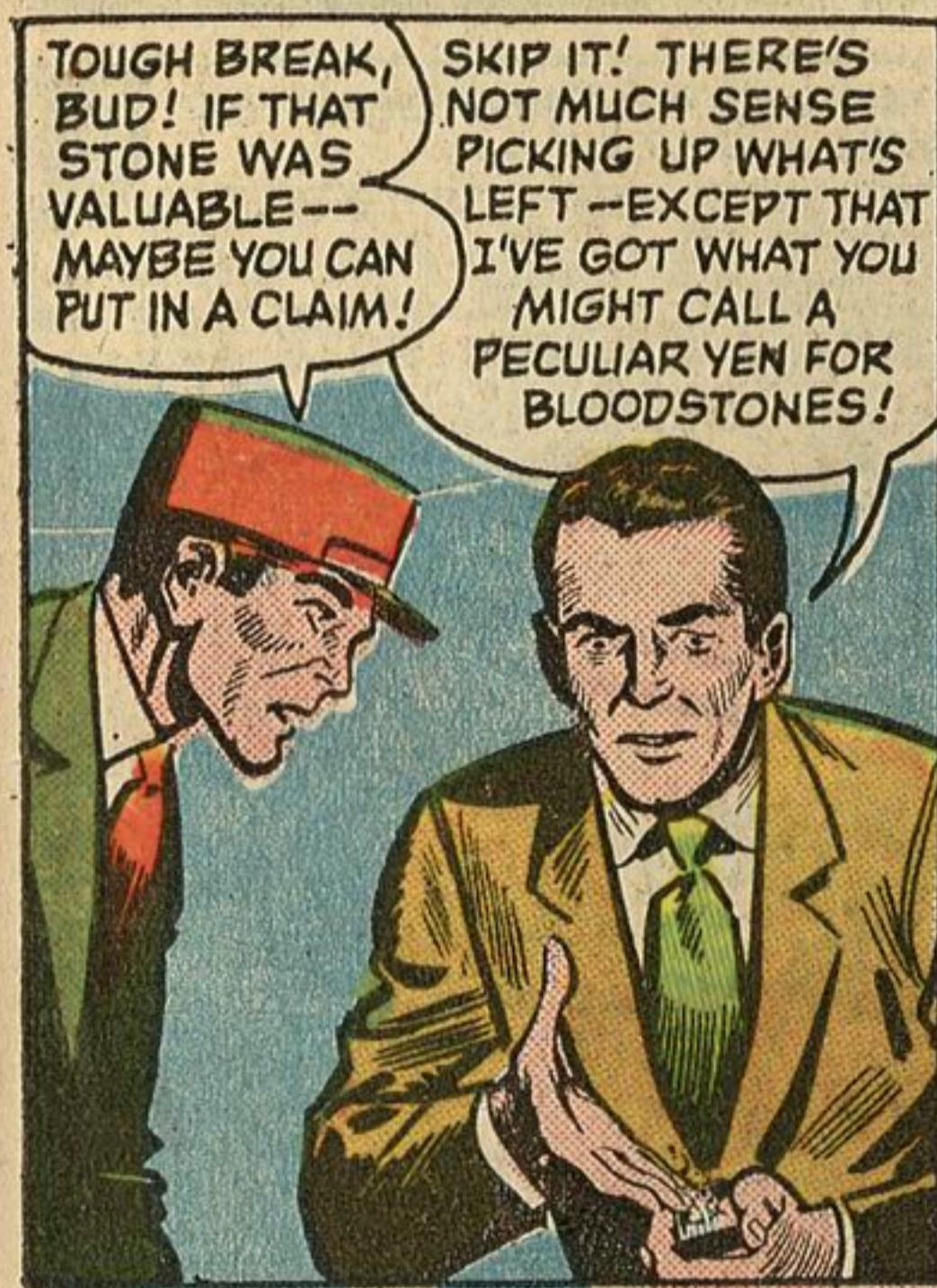
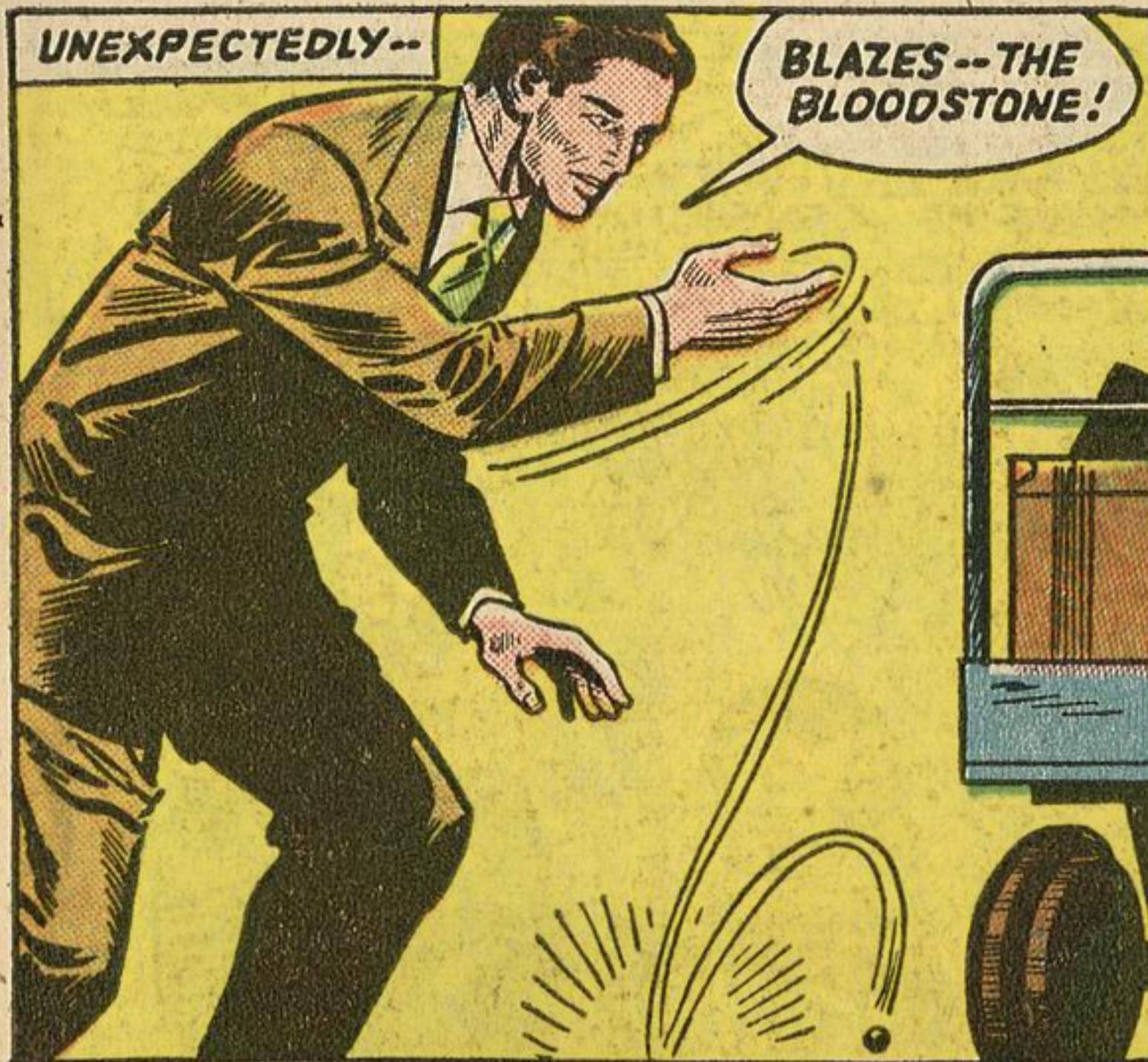
DO YOU THINK YOU ARE SAFE? I HAVE A HOLD OVER YOU THAT NOTHING CAN BREAK--AND TOMORROW NIGHT--IT WILL BRING YOU BACK!



A HALF-HOUR LATER--AS GARY PACES A SUBURBAN RAILROAD PLATFORM--

NO USE FEELING JUMPY--THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN GET ME BACK TO THAT CAVE--SHORT OF PHYSICAL FORCE! AND YET IF SHE WASN'T SURE OF HER EVIL POWER, WHY DID SHE LET ME ESCAPE--WITH THIS?







TIME SEEMS TO FADE IN THE SHADOWS--
AND THEN--

I MENTIONED SOMETHING
BEFORE -- BUT YOU WERE TOO
EAGER TO LET ME FINISH!
**THE BLOODSTONE
HAS BEEN DESTROYED!**

WHAT DOES
IT MATTER? I CAN
FORGET THE GEM
AS READILY AS I WILL
FORGET HIM--NOW
THAT I HAVE
FOUND YOU!



YOU -- AND WHEN I THINK
OF HOW I WILL ENSLAVE
YOU -- IT MAKES ME
GIDDY WITH DELIGHT!

ARE YOU SURE IT'S
THAT? OR COULD IT
BE THAT I SAVED THE
SMASHED BLOODSTONE
AND DRANK THE POWDER--

AND THAT BY NOW
IT'S COURSING
THROUGH TWO
BLOOD
STREAMS
-- MINE
AND
YOURS!



THAT'S WHAT
I MEANT BY
DEATH,
MONSTER --
**YOUR
DEATH!**

WHAT HAVE YOU SAVED BY OUTWITTING
ME--**YOUR LIFE?** IF I MUST DIE, MY
FINAL FURY WILL BE SPENT IN TEARING
YOU APART! IF THIS MUST
BE MY TOMB--
IT WILL BE STAINED
WITH **YOUR
BLOOD!**



CLAWS -- CAN BE FAR MORE --
TERRIBLE -- THAN FANGS!



IN THE NEXT INSTANT-- WITH A CRY THAT TAPERS
OFF INTO THE TWITTER OF A STRICKEN BAT--

AGH-EEEEEE!



FOR A MOMENT, GARY PEERS INTO THE CLEFT-- AND
THEN -- STEPPING OUT INTO A MOONLIGHT PURGED
OF FEAR--

WHO COULD DENY SHE WAS EVIL--
AFTER KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED TO **ME?**
AND WHO COULD DOUBT SHE WAS ANCIENT--
WATCHING HER DIE -- AND THEN FINDING
ANOTHER
SKELETON IN
THE VAMPIRE'S
GRAVE?.



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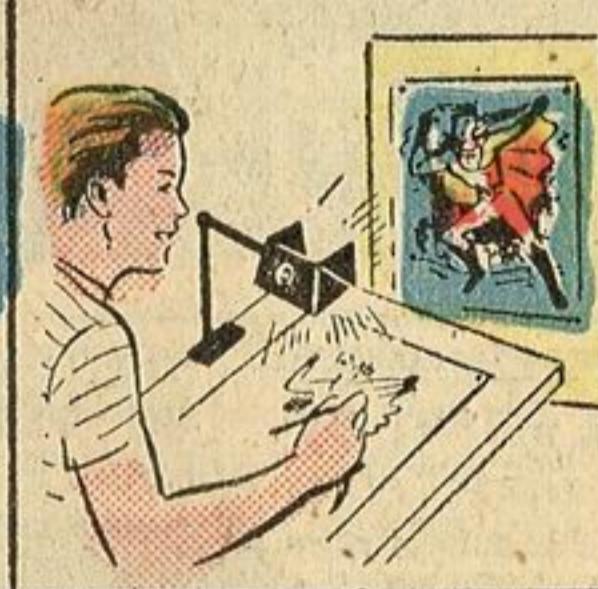
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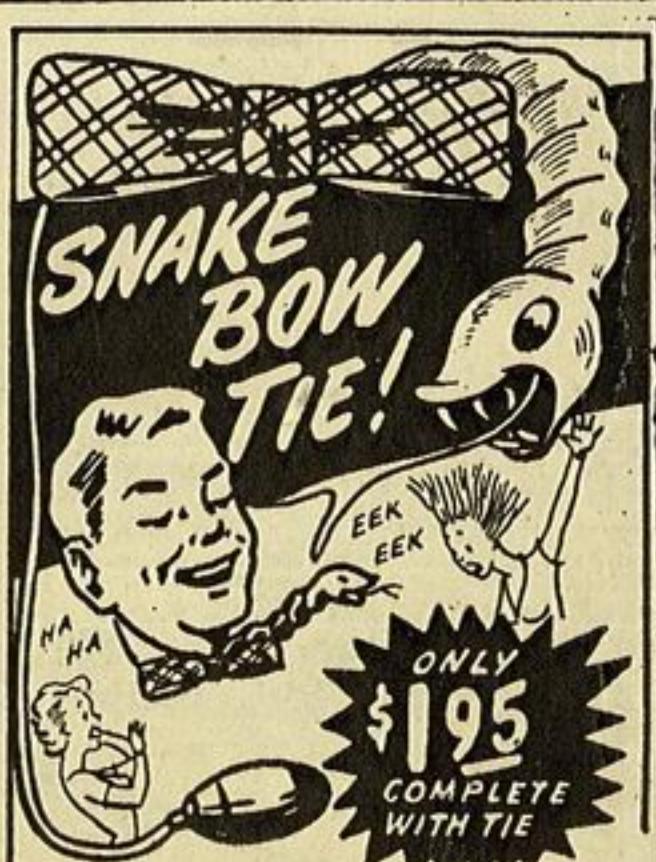


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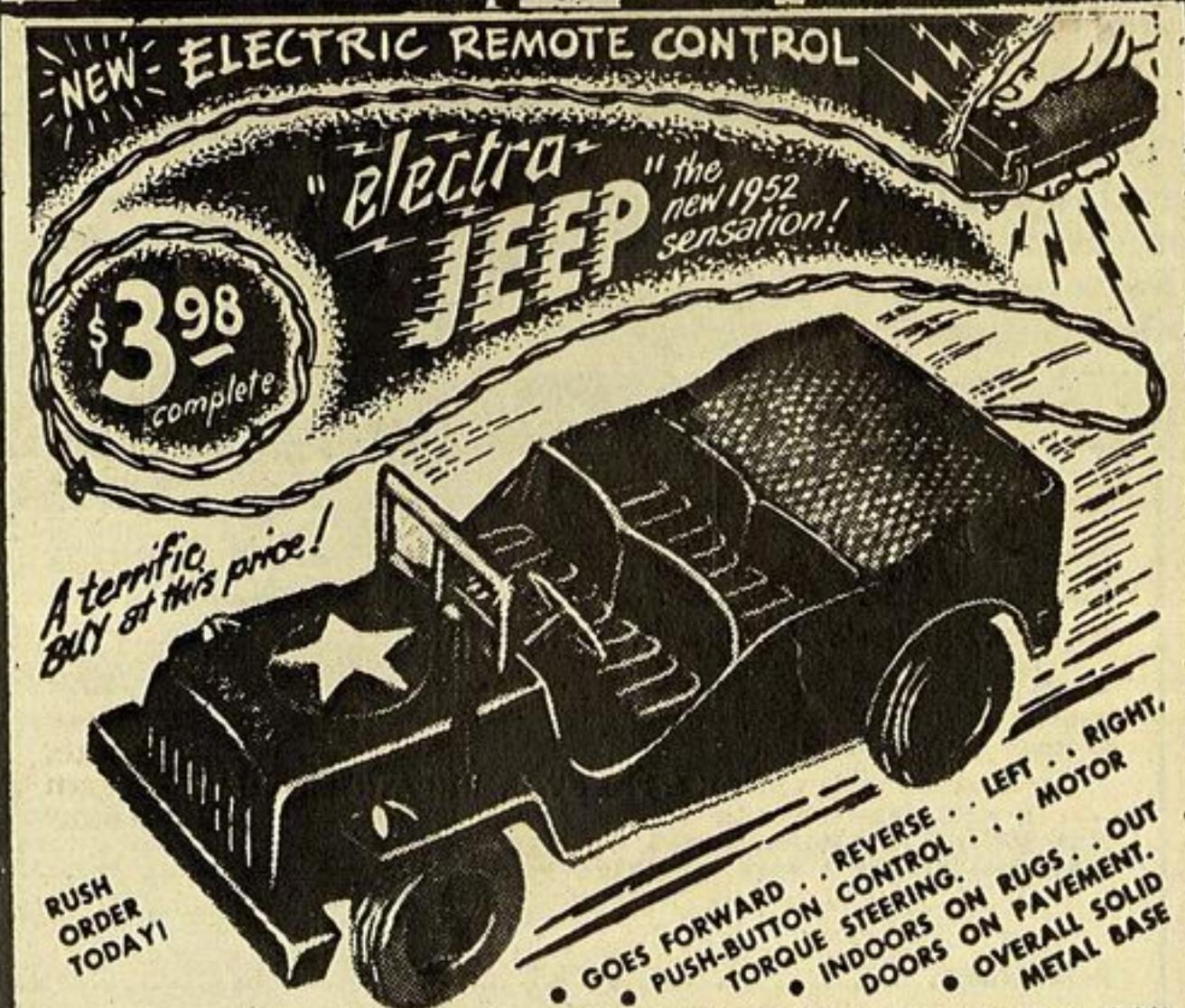
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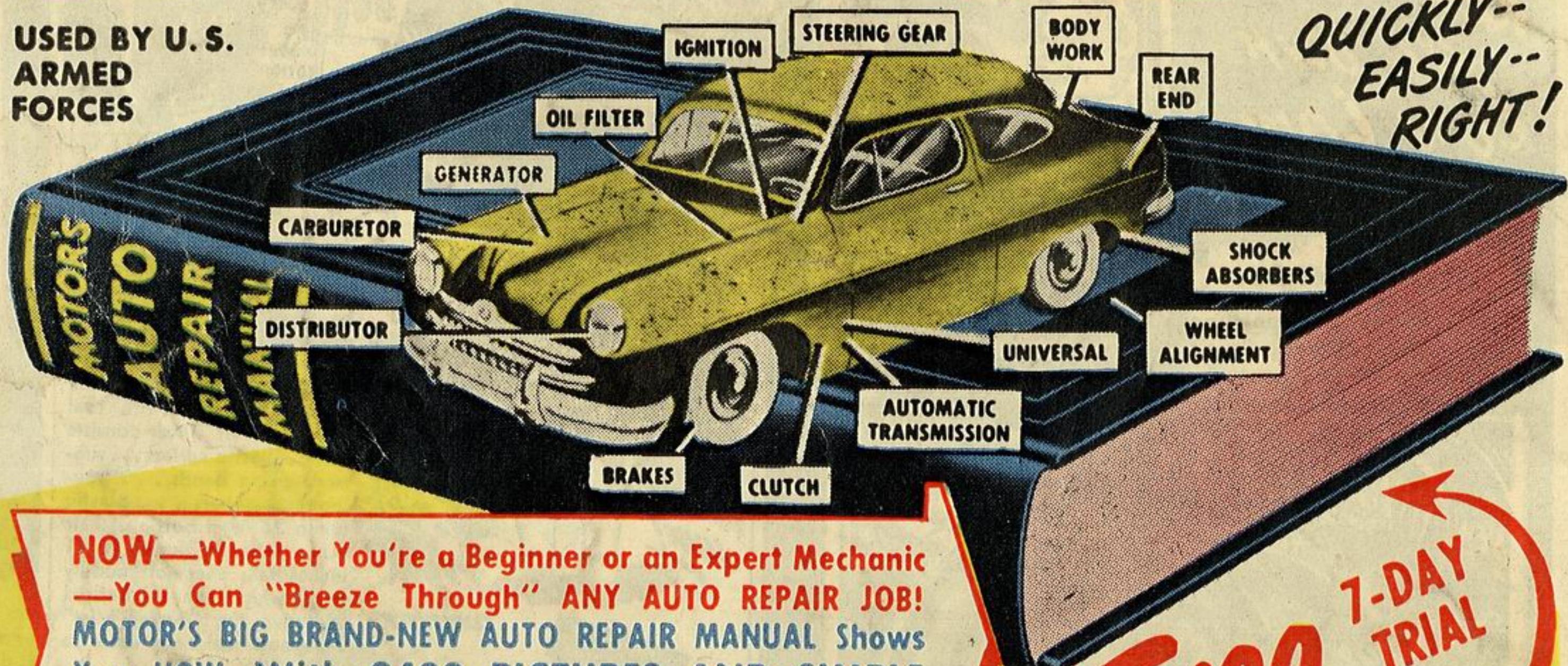
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